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Kohl renews ties with India in New Delhi

RHEINISCHER MERKUR

Bonn Chancellor Helmut Kohl spent three days in India en route for Tokyo and the Western economic summit. The 760 million Indians rank second only to China for sheer size of population.

India is a beautiful country but difficult and complex, as no-one knows better than Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who energetically took over the reins of government after the murder of his mother, Indira Gandhi, in October 1984.

In taking over the leadership of the subcontinent he has given his shocked and worried fellow-countrymen fresh courage to tackle the problems facing a gigantic country.

He has broken new ground yet found that not all parts of his polyglot country were prepared to set aside their egocentric, not to say separatist, endeavours.

Unruly Sikhs in the Punjab remain a source of unrest, as, indirectly, do Tamils in the south.

These domestic problems and India's foreign policy tightrope act of striking a self-assured balance between the United States, the Soviet Union and China convey some idea of the disconcerting bandwidth of India's worries.

Small wonder that a visit by a European leader whose country does not make special demands in world affairs came as an extremely welcome change.

The Federal Republic of Germany is a partner India feels it needs and one India feels ought to commit itself even more strongly.

Herr Kohl, who toured Agra and the Taj Mahal before beginning his official programme, was an understanding visitor.

In talks with Indian President Giani Zail Singh and Premier Gandhi all were agreed that a fresh chapter in Indo-German relations was about to begin.

Impressed by the spirit of age-old India, the Chancellor called on his host country to join the Federal Republic on its journey into the 21st century, and these fine words were accompanied by material action.

Herr Kohl announced that German development aid to India was to be increased by about 10 per cent to DM400m a year from 1986.

Cooperation in coal technology, marine engineering and scientific exchange was to be improved as a flanking measure.

International terrorism was also discussed, and not just because it was to be a major topic at the Tokyo summit but because India would like to extradite Sikh terrorists living in the Federal Republic.

The Chancellor promised to be tougher but called on India as spokesman for the Non-Aligned Movement to pay more than lip service to tackling international terrorism.

Heinrich Stubbe

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, Bonn, 2 May 1986)

Bonn reaffirms its Asian commitments

In Thailand as in India, the Chancellor demonstrated Bonn's readiness to step up German commitment in Asia, commitment in political and economic affairs as in security strategy in the sense of an overriding interest in peace and stability.

This bid to flank President Reagan's activities on the eve of the Tokyo economic summit was particularly topical in view of the latest Soviet efforts to influence South-East Asia.

For the Federal Republic of Germany it symbolises the long-heralded departure from regional foreign policy and adds a German flavour to the European Community's North-South policy, which tends to be Africa-orientated.

Herr Kohl has rightly realised that by virtue of their colonial past and surviving links leading fellow-members of the European Community tend to think mainly in terms of Africa where the Third World is concerned.

German interests have in contrast traditionally been stronger in Asia and Latin America.

Bonn's cordial relations with Japan and China and cooperation between

Continued on page 2

Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi (right) in conversation with Chancellor Helmut Kohl in New Delhi (Photo: dpa)

Soviet reactor mishap stresses need for nuclear cooperation

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

Nuclear physicists and technicians have always dreaded a serious accident such as in Chernobyl, where the reactor clearly got out of hand and its core melted down and exploded, sending radioactive fallout sky-high.

This is the kind of accident they have always sought at all costs to prevent for the sake of peaceful use of atomic energy.

In past mishaps at American nuclear power stations where this danger threshold was reached the potentially devastating chain reaction was brought to a halt in time.

But there is little point in now arguing whether Soviet safety precautions were up to Western standards or simply ignored the risk in keeping with the belief in progress that forms part of the Soviet ideology.

Mankind jointly entered the nuclear age and a reactor mishap affects us all, not to mention the future of nuclear power.

With high levels of radioactivity being recorded first in Scandinavia, then elsewhere in Western Europe, the results are no respecter of frontiers.

The best domestic safety precautions or a country's total withdrawal from atomic energy can be seen to be no protection.

What goes on at power reactors and other nuclear installations in countries other than one's own is just as important even though we may be able to bring little or no influence to bear on it.

A general abandonment of nuclear technology is probably wishful thinking; man has never left knowledge once gained unused.

So the Soviet reactor accident makes it clear how urgently we need international agreements on the peaceful use of atomic energy and suitable safety precautions.

But let there be no illusions as to the possibility. As in the arms sector, international inspection and effective sanctions are required — against the background of different and competing social systems.

The Soviet Union has at least broken one taboo in requesting Western advice and assistance in handling the mishap, which is easier said than done as long as next to no details are available.

It remains to be seen whether Russia and others will come to terms with the realisation that greater international cooperation in harnessing atoms for peace is needed.

(Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin, 30 April 1986)

IN THIS ISSUE

■ WORLD AFFAIRS

America aims at strength, Europe at a political solution

The US air raid on Libya has shed an illuminating spotlight on relations between the United States and Europe, especially the Federal Republic.

Observers in Washington say two trends that have long been in the offing have come to a head:

First, the use of military force forms part of US policy again, certainly in parts of the world where the superpowers are not at loggerheads.

Second, the Americans ride roughshod over their allies' wishes where Washington feels it is in the US national interest to do so.

One American commentator, George F. Will, talks in terms of an inappropriate multilateralism, another, William Pfaff, says America will always go its own way.

America, one might also say, has become more American.

By the same token Europe might also be said to have become more European — even though the Libyan crisis has split the European Community with its separate interests and traditions.

Britain's Margaret Thatcher gave US bombers stationed in Britain permission to take off for the mission against Libya, whereas France and Spain refused the Americans permission to overfly their air space.

Between these two ends of the European scale the Federal Republic of Germany was only too happy not to have been faced with the same choice.

The way in which European countries have partly complied with US requests after the event cannot exactly be said to testify to European self-confidence.

So has Europe really grown more European in outlook? In Herr Genscher's Washington talks, in Chancellor Kohl's speeches and in European Community documents constant mention is made of a political solution.

It is a colourful concept many Americans associate with European unreliability, cowardice and disloyalty and see as a euphemism for trying to keep out of the situation and do nothing.

Franz Josef Strauss has fully acknowledged this accusation, just as he agrees that the Europeans forced the Americans to resort to military intervention by virtue of their inactivity and failure.

He scornfully asks what shape a political solution might possibly take. It is a question that is readily answered.

DIE ZEIT

A few weeks ago *Bayernkurier*, the CSU weekly, included a report on the Bavarian Premier's third visit to Syria, a country which, like Libya and Iran, is *rated a hotbed of the terrorism President* Reagan is prepared to use force against if need be.

Herr Strauss was said to have seen his visit as "a contribution toward giving peace at least a chance, no matter how distant a prospect it might seem to be."

A better definition of a political solution would be hard to find. The concept can, of course, be used to camouflage inability and inactivity.

But it also stands for a traditionally European policy, and a Bonn policy in particular, of trying to make tension politically containable and to reduce it by means of talks and negotiations.

Herr Strauss is right in saying it seldom has ready-made solutions to offer but it unquestionably is a counter-model to the new US policy of strength.

This US policy may not rule out diplomacy but it sees its success first and foremost as a function of American power — success in dealing with America's friends as well as its foes, incidentally.

There are clear signs of US pressure *being brought to bear on* America's partners: the threat of trade war between the United States and the European Community and the talks on German participation in the civilian sector of US space research.

The Americans cannot be said to wear kid gloves in their attitude toward trade ties with Western Europe, while talks on German SDI participation have so far proved most unsatisfactory, with the Germans looking likely to be limited to contract work, much as they seem sure to be on the military side of SDI.

This naturally has an effect on East-West ties. Not for nothing are the Europeans worried whether Washington will abide by the few arms control agreements already in force.

The Bonn Foreign Office hopes the US bombardment of Tripoli and Benghazi will not have had an immediate detrimental effect on East-West ties. The Russians seem to have been notified sooner than many of America's European allies and their response was almost restrained.

Cancellation of the proposed meeting between Foreign Minister Shevardnadze and Secretary of State Shultz is of little practical importance now the next Reagan-Gorbachov summit is not planned before the year's end.

For the Soviet leader the US air raid on Libya has both beneficial and detrimental repercussions, Bonn feels.

One drawback is that the Soviet Union is almost bound to be seen as a paper tiger in the Arab world. The protection afforded by Soviet weapons certainly didn't do Libya much good.

Yet it provided Mr Gorbachov with an opportunity of casting himself in the role of a responsible politician.

While America debated whether Syria and Iran ought to be attacked if need be, the Soviet leader rounded off disarmament proposals even the staunchest anti-Communists in the Bonn Bundestag advised taking seriously.

The Russians may not yet have gone into great detail about their proposals at the conference table but they have certainly shown skill in presentation, given the European desire for political solutions in East-West ties.

The American policy of strength is much more poorly attuned to the tenor of sentiment in Europe although, as Bonn and others naturally realise, it is due to no small extent to the hard-nosed policy of strength pursued by the Soviet Union in the past.

It has not been without effect inasmuch as the Russians, arguably due in part to the SDI programme, have returned to the Geneva conference table.

But worries have been voiced in Bonn by many, including Christian Democrats, lest the view that agreements with the Russians must, as a matter of principle, be regarded sceptically gains even greater influence in the Reagan administration.

This view of the international situation is a vantage-point from which Europe is no longer felt to play much of an independent role in world affairs.

On this point Washington's interests and Bonn's are not identical. America is a fairly sovereign superpower with world commitments and orientated toward the other superpower.

The Federal Republic has gradually progressed from a largely bilateral relationship based on a fixation with the United States as its protecting power to a more complex, European constellation.

It is a constellation that includes not just Western Europe but also Eastern Europe, especially the GDR.

Not long ago there could have been no question of the two German states trying, in their own way, to set the pace of East-West dialogue.

The intra-German community of responsibility to which Chancellor Kohl and Foreign Minister Genscher, especially the latter, refer may not invalidate the Western community of values but it goes far beyond it.

Herr Genscher certainly sees himself both as a spokesman for Western Europe and as an advocate of all-European cooperation.

This gives rise to difficulties with both the United States and the Soviet Union, for which any European attraction felt by the Warsaw Pact states is basically even more dangerous than trends in Western Europe are for the United States. Moscow has more to lose.

Herr Genscher naturally knows that a new Ostpolitik will be impossible unless firmly anchored in the Western alliance. He and the Chancellor are quick to point out that Bonn has fulfilled its Nato commitments to the letter.

It has gone ahead with Nato missile deployment strictly according to plan and decided to lengthen conscription to make sure the Bundeswehr maintains its full peacetime strength.

Yet it is also clear that Bonn is keen to see the superpowers on talking terms (and talking), just as Bonn is keen on European contacts the Americans have always regard with some degree of suspicion, fearing that ideological frontiers were being brushed aside and, with them, Western defence preparedness.

The reference is to the CSCE talks and the Stockholm conference, European initiatives in which the Americans have at times been most reluctant to participate.

Herr Genscher incessantly seeks to maintain this political safety net. He meets with a fair degree of approval from other European countries and limited pleasure on America's part.

Views do not automatically tally on arms control and ties with the East Bloc either. A powerful force in the US administration does not just view arms control agreements with the Soviet Union sceptically; it also warns against economic aid of any kind to communist countries.

"It is wishful thinking to imagine [illegible] could arms-race the Soviet Union [to] death," Herr Genscher argues. "The [ef]fect would be the very opposite, with the Soviet Union deploying all its resources in the arms build-up."

The German Foreign Minister's [illegible] do is: "We don't want a technological [di]vision of Europe."

US Secretary of State Shultz, a principal supporter of the retaliatory strike against Libya, is much *more cautious* [on] East-West ties.

Not for nothing did he correct President Reagan, saying there were no [oper]ational plans against Syria and [illegible] there were, the consequences for [rel]ations between the superpowers [would] be dangerous indeed.

Mr Shultz is the man Bonn must [turn] to with its queries on arms control [illegible] cooperation with him the Europeans have so far succeeded in ensuring essential framework conditions for the East-West dialogue.

The extent to which Bonn *feels this* dialogue is indispensable can be judged by the fact that Herr Genscher dealt [in] detail with the US statement that Washington would for the time being abide by the ceilings set in Salt 2 before it was even officially made.

Chancellor Kohl's call on the superpowers to embark at long last on practical steps to end or at least reduce [the] number their nuclear tests was in much the same vein.

Let there be no illusions: a superpower without military might is inconceivable. Bonn's policy tacitly presupposes US strength.

But the Federal Republic is also [a] European country that is bound to [have] the keenest interest in political solutions. The Federal Republic is part of a divided nation — just as Europe *is* divided.

In Europe every global *polarisation* of politics is sensed as a limitation [of] one's own leeway and all ideological and military tension is experienced [as] an immediate danger.

For the Germans disputes must [re]main political; this is a precondition [of] their very [illegible].

Rolf Zundel

(Die Zeit, Hamburg, 2 May 1986)

Continued from page 1

Ascan and the European Community are intended to take this into account without neglecting Africa.

The Chancellor lent fresh expression to this policy in New Delhi and Bangkok, bridging a gap by reactivating ties with India long upset by Bonn's close ties with China.

The opportunity was presented by India's dynamic Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi, who is keenly interested in cordial ties with Chancellor Kohl.

The heartfelt sympathy the Chancellor encountered in Thailand has deeper roots, but old friendships need tending, and that was the point of his visit to Bangkok.

Bernt Conrad

(Die Welt, Bonn, 2 May 1986)

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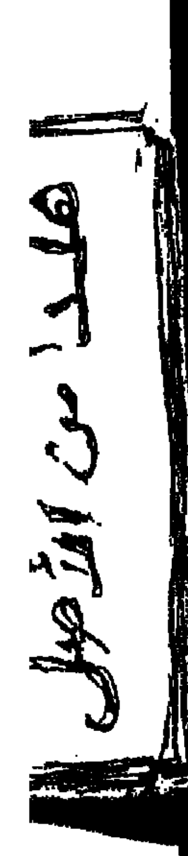
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■ HOME AFFAIRS

June poll in Lower Saxony a general election test run

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Peter Radunski, the CDU's business manager, is proud of always having been able to come up with something new in election campaigns he has planned, organised and analysed on his party's behalf.

His next major challenge is the state election in the *Land* of Lower Saxony this summer, a test for the general election early next year.

"Since our political opponents are using national political issues to campaign in Lower Saxony," he says, "we're going to take up the challenge this time and do the same."

The idea of using a regional election to sound out the mood of the electorate *for a forthcoming* general election is not new.

Radunski must share the copyright for this idea with his party's general secretary, Heiner Geissler, who recently emphasised on more than one occasion that the elections in Lower Saxony on 15 June could indicate what the CDU might expect next year.

The Lower Saxony election is "a very important, decisive and indicative election," Herr Geissler said. So that too is nothing new.

The outcome of the Lower Saxony election [illegible] bearing on national politics which is not artificial: if Lower Saxon Premier Ernst Albrecht (CDU) is obliged to hand over his office to his SPD opponent Gerhard Schröder the CDU/CSU will lose its majority in the Bundesrat, the upper house of the West German parliament.

For the CDU's party secretariat in Bonn, however, the Lower Saxon elections are also a test in terms of how much campaigning material will be needed for the general election on 25 January 1987.

As really new ideas are few and far between the CDU's election campaigners have fallen back on a strategy once employed by the SPD.

In line with the news sheet *Zeitung am Sonntag*, which the Social Democrats distribute to households free of charge during election campaigns, the CDU will be issuing an information sheet called *Niedersachsen zum Wochenende* (Lower Saxony This Weekend).

After the Lower Saxon elections the sheet will be renamed *Deutschland am Wochenende* ([illegible]

The only real difference between the SPD's and the CDU's news sheet is the motive behind its publication.

Whereas the SPD hoped to counterbalance the Sunday newspapers published by the (conservative) Springer group, the CDU regards the distribution of its sheet as part of a mobilisation campaign.

Local and regional CDU groups have to appoint so-called distribution representatives who in turn try to recruit other distributors in order to make sure that the sheet is distributed to the envisaged 60 per cent of all households on time.

Finally, a new campaigning method will be tested in Lower Saxony which is geared to the cheap production and speedy transportation of canvassing material.

Gone are the days of expensive glossy brochures and lavish leaflets. Although poster advertising is still employed, it is gradually giving way to more advertising in newspapers.

Smaller leaflets printed on ordinary paper are now back in fashion. They can be produced at low cost and at short notice and speedily distributed to the target group.

These inexpensive products are grouped around the integrated word and data processing system in the CDU's secretariat in Bonn.

This computer system is directly linked to local and regional CDU groups, which means that business secretary Radunski can feed in the wording and illustrations of a given leaflet and then forward this within minutes to his colleagues elsewhere.

Since opinion surveys show that the mood of the electorate can change more suddenly than the weather in April, political parties must respond more and more rapidly to the issues covered by the media.

"We have to react," says Radunski," as if we were a medium ourselves." The classic election campaign, which was dominated over a longer period by just a few main issues and slogans, is a thing of the past.

Election campaigners no longer rack their brains over an overriding election campaign slogan (e.g. *Auf den Kanzler kommt es an* (It Depends on the Chancellor) or *Freiheit statt/oder Sozialismus* (Freedom instead of/or Socialism).

The CDU now seems to prefer a wide variety of slogans which go straight to the heart of the voter.

On Mother's Day, for example, the CDU distributed a leaflet in Lower Saxony headed "Many Thanks to All Mothers."

Another "mass product" is a special calendar for the World Cup in Mexico with information on when individual games are being broadcast on TV.

However, as a kind of homage to its more old-fashioned voters, the CDU will also have a national slogan: *Vertrauen in die Zukunft — wir sind auf einem guten Weg in Deutschland* (Confidence in the Future — We're on the Right Path).

Chancellor Kohl (centre right), here seen with Premier Ernst Albrecht (foreground), meets the people in Lower Saxony (Photo: dpa)

Admittedly, other slogans such as *Wende in der Lohntüte* (A Change in Your Pay Packet), *Weltmeister in Preisstabilität* (World Champions in Price Stability); *Preise wie zu Ludwig Erhards Zeiten* (Prices As In the Days of Ludwig Erhard) are more likely to catch on.

Or perhaps the very simple motto *Wir lieben Kinder!* (We Love Children!).

In response to the election tips issued by the trade unions for the general election the CDU will issue a "20-point" programme outlining the achievements of the Bonn government.

The CDU's head office estimates the cost of the general election campaign at roughly DM40m.

Once again, it is hoped that a cost limitation agreement will be drawn up which will also determine the start of the "hot phase" of the election campaign.

The 1987 general election, however, has its special problems. As it's a "winter election" its final stages will take place indoors.

Lower Saxony is primarily a test election for the CDU as regards how farmers will react.

During recent months officials from farmers' associations have heavily criticised the government and its policies.

The results of an opinion survey by Infas shows how stubborn these once loyal CDU voters are.

Since 1979 the support for the CDU and CSU among farmers has dropped from 76 to 69 per cent.

The CDU is not so much worried that the farmers will vote for another party, but that they won't bother going to the polls at all.

This explains why this problem has been turned into a "matter for the Chancellor" (Radunski).

Helmut Kohl, who recently held "on-the-spot" talks with farmers about their problems, will be taking a decision on financial assistance for farmers in May.

However, the hopes of the party's election campaign planners that the corresponding figure may be DM1bn seem extremely unrealistic in view of the fact that the Federal Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg recently spoke of DM200m.

Radunski is pleased about the fact that the extent of the national CDU's involvement in the Lower Saxon campaign "was a real surprise for our opponents."

During previous election campaigns in the *Länder* political VIPs from Bonn preferred to stay away rather than run the risk of jeopardising their image by being associated with a possible election defeat.

Land politicians for their part were not too interested in Federal support, since Bonn is not exactly felt to be an election winner.

This time, however, Chancellor Kohl has become actively involved in the campaign and will be addressing eight meetings in Lower Saxony.

"My impression is," election strategist Radunski tells doubters and sceptics who feel Lower Saxony is already a lost cause, "that they'll pull through."

Klaus Dreher

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 25 April 1986)

The bomb that became an election issue

News that Lower Saxony's counter-intelligence agency, the Office for Protection of the Constitution (*Verfassungsschutz*), carried out a bomb attack [illegible] and then blamed it on the terrorist Red Army Faction (RAF) has really put the cat among the pigeons in the final phase of the state assembly election campaign.

The bomb attack, which had the official approval of the Lower Saxon government, served as a means of smuggling a counter-intelligence agent into the terrorist scene.

The blast has really got the tongues wagging in Lower Saxony and elsewhere and had edged other election issues such an the environment and farmers off the agenda.

The election campaign so far was quiet and only gradually warming up. Now it may start boiling over after the sensational news of government-approved anti-terrorist "terrorist" bombing.

Lower Saxon Premier Ernst Albrecht (CDU), who was premier eight years ago, summed up the new situation as follows:

"The way I see things today this is just what we needed to really get the election campaign off the ground."

The harshness of the criticism has grown with the "dynamite" of this particular issue.

Albrecht's challenger, Gerhard Schröder (SPD), has claimed that Albrecht is a burden on democracy. Albrecht for his part has been digging up Schröder's Young Socialist past.

The CDU, which is hoping to be able to form a coalition with the FDP in Lower Saxony, has only issued a statement to the effect that the end cannot justify all means.

The Greens have criticised all the traditional parties and accused them of perverting the course of justice.

Albrecht's remark that he wants the electorate to decide via their votes on 15 June whether his decision to condone the bomb attack was correct or not shows how important the issue has become.

He seems confident he will get their support. Political observers also feel his traditional supporters will not change their views. However, it is not clear how the "don't-knows" will react to the news.

Whether the operation was legitimate and whether the method used was "reasonable" will probably make the difference here.

Michael Segbers

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 29 April 1986)

■ BONN

New look for Bundestag but no-one knows which



Bundestag Speaker Philipp Jenninger quotes Goethe's *Faust* in despair at the confusion that seems to be the hallmark of plans to renovate the Bundeshaus, or parliament building, in Bonn.

"It all makes me feel as dumb," Goethe has Faust say, "as though a millstone were turning round in my head." Herr Jenninger can hardly fail to feel the renovation saga is a millstone.

After more than a decade of planning the 520 Bonn MPs have succeeded in little more than making chaos complete.

The project has so far cost an irretrievable DM51m without clarifying in the least whether the Parliament chamber is merely to be given a face-lift or to be demolished and rebuilt entirely.

Herr Jenninger is none the wiser whether the Bundeshaus, a plain Jane building, is to be spruced up with a smart new entrance or a new, presidial wing is to be added.

The same goes for many other proposals. No-one is any the wiser. Proverbial planning failures and money wasted by red tape in just about any country are models of efficiency when compared with the progress made by Bundestag planners in Bonn.

All that can be said for sure is that *something will have to be done about the Parliament* chamber. Otherwise the police will sooner or later have to bar and shutter it for being in breach of just about every rule in the book.

Torsten Wolfgramm of the FDP jokes that he knows why the chamber is usually almost deserted. It is because MPs are worried either the floor or the ceiling will cave in.

Joking apart, tension in the roof has been found by stress analysts to be well over the permissible levels.

But if the floor, roof and two walls need replacing, what will be left of the old chamber, some MPs argue, advocating a "clean sweep."

They propose total demolition and replacement of the Parliament chamber by a new circular array complete with a smart new lobby. Christian and Social Democrats backed the "clean sweep" idea in committee.

Then the doubters gained ground. The Rhenish historic monuments department objected to the demolition plan and politicians began to have their doubts.

Why build a new history museum only a few hundred yards away and then demolish the Bundeshaus, which can surely claim to have played its part in recent German history?

North Rhine-Westphalian Public Works Minister Christoph Zöpel can authorise demolition of a listed building in the public interest but is only prepared to do so in this case if the Bundestag gives him the go-ahead by a clear majority.

He is not prepared to accept the opinion of a mere committee. So the matter will have to be referred to the Bundestag in full session again, and an increasing number of MPs favour postponing the decision until after the January 1987 general election.

Herr Jenninger takes a very dim view of this idea. He says he cannot accept responsibility for calling construction to a halt. The Bundestag must decide at long last which design it favours.

Does it want a circular seating arrangement? If the entire chamber is to be demolished should a new presidial wing be added?

This is a further problem in that the new wing as proposed is ugly, liable to flooding and not very functional in design.

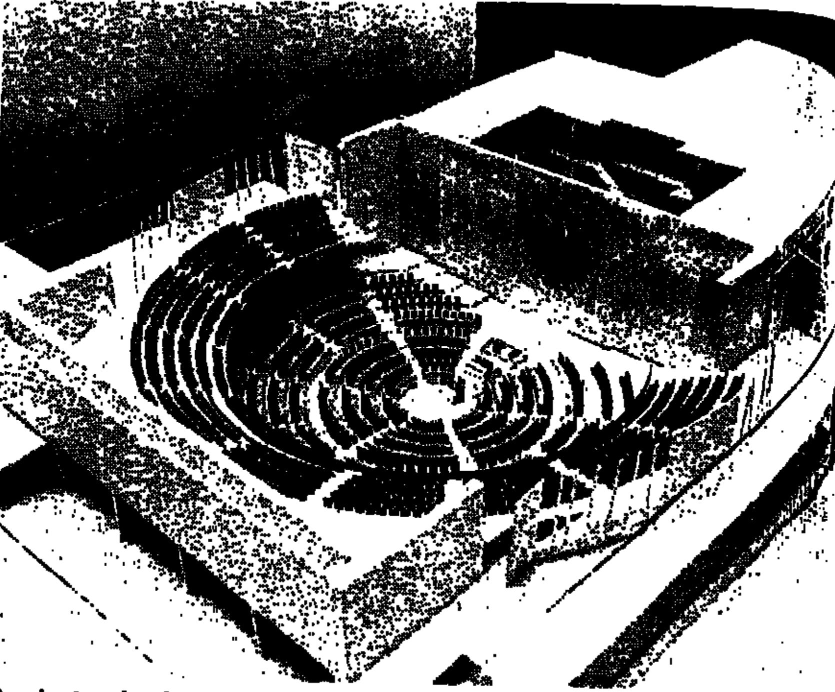
MPs have been unable to reach a decision on this point because detailed plans are not yet available.

A decision is urgently needed because, as civil servants point out, the departments affected can only move to temporary quarters during the summer recess.

By then the temporary Parliament chamber in a disused nearby waterworks will be ready. The converted waterworks looks most impressive and should make a fine temporary home.

A smaller-scale wooden replica of the heraldic eagle on the wall behind the rostrum of the existing Parliament chamber has been hung in place in the new quarters.

Hundreds of offices have been rented nearby to house the presidium and other Bundestag departments during renovation, but whether tenants will ever move in, and if so when, is anyone's guess.



Bundestag in the round: scale model of the award-winning design for the Parliament chamber and lobby wing of the Bundeshaus in Bonn submitted by Stuttgart architects Behnisch & Partner (Photo: ...)

Next to no-one now expects construction work to begin before summer 1987, but Herr Jenninger has not yet abandoned hope. He is backed both by Stuttgart architect Günter Behnisch and his staff of 12 and by the Social Democrats.

The Free Democrats and the Greens have joined forces in opposing the "clean sweep" solution.

Herr Jenninger has now been dealt a serious blow by an official at the Ministry of Building and Public Works who used to say it would be virtually impossible to renovate the Parliament chamber without demolishing the entire building.

He seems to have changed his mind. MPs who took part in a confidential committee meeting say so, adding that Herr Jenninger was hopping mad.

The Ministry is not overjoyed either. MPs may have been undecided on various proposals but in the past the civil service has been unshaken.

The Christian Democrats have called for an interim report to be issued in June, to be followed by a final report in November. We may then be no wiser than we are now.

Gerd Rauhaus

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 26 April 1986)

MPs are to be computerised by 1991, Bundestag decides

By 1991 all Bundestag MPs in Bonn are to be linked to a computerised information and communication system, including a direct data link with their constituencies.

Social Democratic MP Sigrid Skarpelis-Sperk can claim much of the credit for members of the Bundestag having discovered the computer as an invaluable aide.

Data processing is just the job for handling the tons of documents, press releases and resolutions with which MPs are bombarded from all directions.

She was elected to the Bundestag in 1980 and promptly discovered that working conditions for MPs were the worst she had come across in her entire working life.

She had to share an office with her personal assistant. Ministries answered queries either with a meaningless statement or so much paperwork that it was more of a hindrance than a help.

DIE WELT

Besides, she complained, access to information on file in the Bundestag archives was a catastrophe in every conceivable respect. A small canning factory kept better tabs on its stock than the Bundestag.

She tried to pioneer innovations and was quickly involved in a pitched battle with the long arm of the Bundestag administrative service.

She decided the time had come to end the era of "collectors and hunters," to paraphrase the theory of historical materialism. MPs, she said, had to work in primeval conditions while the civil service and government had on-line access to the latest computer files.

MPs spent much of their time on a paper chase: leafing through, assessing, reading and processing the day's paperwork.

Her campaign for the introduction of new technologies for MPs was welcomed with open arms by a number of fellow-Social Democrats, mostly newcomers to the Bundestag like herself.

A working party was set up as the official start of the struggle for a communications system to be shared by MPs. Dissatisfaction with existing conditions crosses all party lines.

When the Christian Democrats resumed power in Bonn in October 1982 the SPD soon realised that its work was seriously handicapped now it no longer had direct access to Ministries and the civil service apparatus.

The Bundestag finance committee, clearly sympathetic toward new ideas in this connection, gave the go-ahead and the Finance Ministry earmarked DM8.7m this year and DM25.8m in 1987 toward the cost of installing the latest data and communications technology.

In May 1984 a commission was set up to decide which computer programme was best suited for the purpose. It was no easy task but members gradually developed extensive computer know-how.

They beavered away on their own, held group conferences, made fact-finding tours and were briefed on the computer systems used by the leading parties and ways in which they could be extended and how compatible they were.

How do average MPs view the computer? Some are strictly opposed. Others are hesitantly in favour, with misgivings about their personal lack of technical sleight-of-hand.

Some clearly aren't interested, while others take a rose-tinted view of access to data banks all over the world.

After a year's work the commission urgently recommended a joint and open system not linked to any one manufacturer.

The communications system will be based on an ISDN telephone exchange. ISDN stands for integrated services digital network; digital networks are to replace the Bundespost's existing analog facilities from 1988.

ISDN will also replace the Bundespost's Datex L and Datex P data communication services. ISDN standards are accepted all over Europe and due to be standardised worldwide in 1988.

The public ISDN network will then be available for use in relaying text, data and images and storing and processing them worldwide.

What is more, ISDN-based systems have little or no trouble with compatibility.

The CDU evidently felt Frau Skarpelis was going too far in insisting on the new computer facilities being linked to European telecom standards.

Friedrich Bohl, a CDU member of the commission, insisted on at least DM3m being allocated to parliamentary parties toward the cost of updating their present computer systems.

The Christian Democrats have a Wang system and hope the cash will en-

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■ TERRORISM

Bogus bomb raid triggers political controversy

Eight years ago security forces faked a bomb raid on Celle jail to help an agent work his way into a group supporting Red Army Faction (RAF) terrorists. The raid took place on 25 July 1978, at the height of the terrorist manhunt, and was attributed to terrorists. But Lower Saxon Premier Ernst Albrecht knew and approved and says the Bonn government was informed at the time.

What now reads like a second-rate thriller began in the second half of 1977, says Social Democrat and CID officer GüntherTietjen, an Opposition member of the Bonn Bundestag.

That was the year in which terrorists killed chief public prosecutor Siegfried Buback, Frankfurt banker Jürgen Ponto and employers' leader Hanns-Martin Schleyer.

Schleyer was kidnapped and later killed; four members of his police bodyguard were killed during the abduction.

Staff at the *Bundeskriminalamt*, or Federal CID, in Wiesbaden drew up the first plans to fake an attempted jail break and help police agents to work their way into the terrorist scene.

That was how the Celle operation began. Secrecy was self-explanatory. The fewer people knew about the plan the better.

Klaus Dieter Loudil, who was serving a 10-year jail sentence for robbery, approached the authorities and said he was prepared to work as an undercover agent.

Views on whether he was the right man for the job now differ. The CDU says he was to some extent politically motivated and suitable; the SPD disagrees.

At the end of 1977 he was transferred from Hesse to Celle jail in Lower Saxony. He was joined by a second agent, Manfred Berger, who was later released on parole.

Loudil worked hard to earn the confidence of the authorities. He was the agent Lower Saxon Premier Ernst Albrecht said had saved a prison warder's life.

He shared a cell with terrorist Sigurd Debus, who planned to kill a particularly unpopular warder during an escape bid. Loudil agreed to help him.

Debus told Loudil to jump parole to work for the RAF the next time he was allowed out of jail. He did so in spring 1978 under police supervision.

Debus told him to get hold of two sub-machine guns, which he claimed to have done. Then, no-one know just when, his cell-mate told him to try and stage a jail break by bombing the prison from outside.

The raid was to be a signal to the "pigs" that forces were gathering to free him from jail.

There had either to be a bomb raid or the police agent would have to be written off. The authorities settled for a raid.



The controversial 1978 hole in the wall at Celle jail: it cost a mere DM150 to repair but has now resurfaced as an election issue (Photo: dpa)

On 21 April 1978 Premier Albrecht, Lower Saxon Interior Minister Rötger Gross, Federal Interior Minister Werner Maihofer and the head of the BKA department in charge of anti-terrorist activities met at the Lower Saxon liaison office in Bonn to discuss details.

Maihofer agreed to second members of the GSG 9 flying squad. State secretary Fröhlich knew about the plan, but not parliamentary state secretary Gerhart Baum.

The meeting was not minuted and the first mention in official records was dated 11 January 1979.

Premier Holger Börner of Hesse was not present at the Bonn meeting. He was briefed by Lower Saxon officials in Wiesbaden on 3 May 1978.

It is not yet clear what he was told, but he certainly had to approve the official pardon Loudil demanded in return for his collaboration.

Börner insisted on official notification by Bonn and was sent a letter on 11 May 1978 that read:

"Dear Prime Minister, I am happy to confirm, in connection with the subject discussed on 3 May 1978, that an early release or pardon of the prisoner is in keeping with overriding security interests of the Federal Republic of Germany. Yours cordially, Werner Maihofer."

Preparations for the fake bomb raid then began. Ministries changed hands and the Office for the Protection of the Constitution in Cologne was briefly notified.

The Federal government applied in vain for the extradition from Yugoslavia of RAF terrorists Brigitte Mohnhaupt and Christian Klar.

Lower Saxony was clearly in charge of the Celle operation, with technical back-up from the Bonn-based GSG 9 flying squad.

Loudil was at liberty and in a position to send Debus the file he demanded. The CDU and SPD leaders in the Lower Saxon state assembly were briefed.

The raid was to have taken place on 24 July, but a courting couple were discovered between the prison wall and the River Aller.

The operation was postponed rather than risk injuring them.

The next day there were no problems. The explosive charge was laid and detonated.

Prison staff "found" the file in Debus's cell. When the bomb exploded he was in bed and stayed there.

The blast broke not a single windowpane. Repairing the damage cost a paltry DM150 (convicts' wages are low).

Loudil moved around in terrorist circles, having made a name for himself via his contacts with Debus.

In Paris he stayed with underground Basque terrorists.

From there, he went to Hamburg, where he seems to have met his fellow-agent Berger who is said to have discovered a terrorist apartment fitted out as a makeshift jail.

The authorities inferred that a further kidnapping was planned. Another breakout may have been forestalled too. In another apartment the two men found a five-kilo bomb.

Early in 1979 they were retired as agents and at least one of them has since, with government assistance, led a blameless life.

An unusual undercover operation was over and next to no-one yet knows how details have been leaked to the media.

Günter Bannas

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 30 April 1986)

MPs computerised

Continued from page 4

able them to equip 100 more CDU MPs with computers in time for the forthcoming general election campaign.

The argument seems to have been settled and agreement to have been reached on a compromise. A joint Bundestag system is to be set up and an ISDN telephone exchange installed.

Computer manufacturers are to be required either to supply ISDN-compatible systems or to devise them within a year. Initially equipment supplied by several manufacturers will be tested.

A user service centre will be set up in the Bundestag for MPs and their aides. The DM8.7m earmarked for 1986 will be released for use, subject to scrutiny by the Bundestag administrative service.

Parliamentary parties will be allocated an initial DM3m either to buy new systems in keeping with the joint information and communication standards or to update and convert existing systems.

Harald Watermann

(Die Welt, Bonn, 21 April 1986)

■ MANAGEMENT

Optician Fielmann sets sights at south German market

Günther Fielmann (Photo: Fielmann)

Roughly 50 per cent of adult West Germans permanently or occasionally wear glasses. They are the market in which Günther Fielmann began his almost unparalleled career as an optician in 1972.

He started as an apprentice in Cuxhaven; his chain of shops can now claim to be the market leader among West German opticians.

It is obvious that his road to success in a branch which was accustomed to substantial profit margins was not alwas smooth.

Insiders often mockingly remarked that there were two things opticians disliked: people with good eyesight and Günther Fielmann.

During his 14 years in the opticians' business Fielmann has turned the whole branch upside down.

There is every indication that he will successfully continue his expansionary course during the coming years.

Now he has established a widespread sales network in northern Germany Fielmann, 47, aims to move south.

His latest acquisition was the second-largest optician chain in northern Germany, Lühmann.

Their 22 specialist shops and 163 employees were integrated into the Fielmann empire in March, bringing his total number of retail outlets to 107.

The way Lühmann changed hands says more about how strongly the opticians' trade is rooted in small and medium-sized businesses than turnover figures.

A statement by Fielmann on this takeover claimed that Lühmann had entrusted his business to his former colleague Günther Fielmann in order to maintain the small and medium-sized character of the optician trade.

Lühmann himself said: "Fielmann looks towards the future. My employees and my clients are in good hands."

Fielmann's success is based on a simple idea and his perseverance in making this idea work on the market despite considerable opposition.

A similar development is currently taking place in the chemists' business.

Big profit margins are being reduced, clients are able to buy quality products with a longer guarantee, and the product range is being distributed in such a way as to enable the major suppliers to adapt and keep on supplying.

Fielmann also used another "trick." He introduced a better-looking design to the glasses provided within the framework of the national health insurance scheme.

Up until recently, opticians were keen on retaining the poor man's image of these glasses in order to persuade their customers to pay more for a good-looking pair of glasses.

This policy kept profits high.

Fielmann, however, turned the ten standard frames for adults and the two standard models for children into 90 smart and stylish pairs of glasses with over 600 variations, thousands of which are available "on prescription."

Since then a little girl can be heard and seen in advertising spots openly claiming, much to the annoyance of other opticians, that her daddy didn't have to pay more than the prescription charge for a decent pair of glasses.

Fielmann has now been popularly nicknamed the "king of the national health glasses." But it wasn't just Fielmann's idea which brought him success.

He combined his new product range with a cleverly elaborated marketing package which many opticians are now trying to imitate.

Fielmann gradually turned his shops into so-called supercentres, which he refers to as adventure playgrounds for adults.

He claims that anyone buying a pair of glasses in his shops doesn't just buy a product but treats himself to the pleasure of a shopping spree.

The Fielmann chain also sells the frames of well-known international designers, such as Valentino and Gucci, on prescription.

This is something both his fellow-opticians and his clients had to get used to.

This, however, was not enough for Fielmann, who has tried to make his shops more "transparent" by setting up a 3-D holography gallery or letting laser dots dance around on the walls.

He has also created light effects by using glass, mirrors, chrome and marble.

His marketing strategy has proved popular with the customers. But Fielmann rarely allows outsiders to take a look at his sales figures.

After the Lühmann takeover the Fielmann company had 107 retail outlets, i.e. 1.5 per cent of all the shops in this branch in the Federal Republic.

In terms of turnover, however, which is expected to increase to DM225m (DM119m) this year, Fielmann claims to have a 6.6-per-cent share of the West German market.

If, as he plans, he is able to sell 1.2 million pairs of glasses this year he will even have a 10-per-cent market share in terms of the number of items sold.

This distorts the real situation, since Fielmann still primarily concentrates on the northern German market.

Here he owns five per cent of all opticians' shops and claims a 19-per-cent share of the market in terms of turnover.

In terms of the quantity of pairs of glasses sold Fielmann has a 27 per cent share of the market in northern Germany.

These figures indicate that turnover per employee and selling space is much higher than the branch average.

It is still not clear, however, whether this can also be said with regard to the firm's profitability.

Fielmann's 1,470 employees have a share in company profits and many of them even have a stake in the company's DM33m equity base.

Fielmann has by no means achieved his final goal.

The investment figure earmarked for 1986 (DM36m; 1985 = DM18m) would suggest that Fielmann is about to launch a major marketing campaign in the south of Germany.

Despite his plans for expansion in the optical products branch, Fielmann has also moved into another line of business, although he doesn't like talking about it.

The firm in question is the pharmaceuticals reimporting and exporting firm MPA GmbH in Lütjensee near Hamburg.

Since it began exporting low-priced generic pharmaceutical products this firm has been extremely successful.

Fielmann's dabble in pharmaceuticals *doesn't prevent him from extending his* sales empire as an optician.

He not only gives his customers a three-year guarantee ("if you see a pair of glasses which is cheaper during this period, we'll take your pair back"), but also negotiates fixed prices with the health insurance organisations for a certain period.

The former cost calculating rule of thumb according to which the purchase price of a pair of glasses was DM25 and the selling price DM100 no longer applies.

Fielmann's competitors, among them the big marketing chains Quelle and Karstadt, have adapted to the new situation and are now trying to beat the "avenger of the bespectacled" (as Fielmann was nicknamed by a Hamburg magazine) on his own terms. Fielmann, however, does not seem unduly perturbed by this fact and is convinced that competition is good for business.

Gerd Achilles

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, Bonn, 26 April 1986)

Horst Witzel, chief executive at Schering, the Pill people

For the first time in its post-war history the board of management of the Schering pharmaceuticals group has elected a chairman.

The group's supervisory board has appointed 59-year-old Horst Witzel to take over the new job in May.

Up to now, Witzel and six other board members shared responsibility for dealing with the everyday problems which face an internationally operating company.

Witzel is one of the few remaining Schering executives who helped rebuild the firm after the war.

He was born in Evingsen in Westphalia on 12 April 1927. After leaving school in 1944 he was conscripted and



Horst Witzel (Photo: Schering AG)

became a prisoner-of-war. He began his career at Schering on 1 November 1950 after having studied Chemistry.

Today, over 140 subsidiaries and holding companies with a total staff of 24,500 (6,400 of whom are employed in Berlin) belong to the Schering group.

In 1985 the group's turnover figure exceeded DM5bn for the first time in its history.

Schering is the only German industrial concern with a worldwide reputation which has its central administration, central management and research teams in Berlin as well as its production plants.

In Berlin Schering is often disrespectfully called the Pill Group.

Schering was the first European company to introduce an oral contraceptive to the market in 1961.

Excluding the North American market, 40 per cent of all women taking oral contraceptives throughout the world swallow Schering products.

Witzel, however, is not too fond of limiting the company's image to just one product. Schering's range of products, he points out, is *much broader*.

Pesticides, for *example* account for one mark in four of Schering's turnover and 10 per cent of turnover is invested in broadly-based research.

Witzel began work in the research department, completed his doctorate, claimed his first scientific successes as an assistant to the head of research Karl Junkman.

It soon became clear that the sociable chemist, who is very fond of travelling, had other qualities.

Witzel already began travelling to America in the 1950s to buy licences enabling Schering to catch up the post-war research backlog.

During the 1960s the roots of the Mexican babasco plant were the cheapest base product for the production of the Pill and other medicines.

Schering had a vital interest in ensuring the supplies of this product. Witzel was given the task of setting up a factory in Mexico to process it.

Ever since his stay in Central America the new chairman of Schering has shown an avid interest in America's pre-Columbian civilisations.

He often visits the excavation sites of ancient cultures, collects cult objects and literature.

Four paintings from Mexico hang in Witzel's office on the 14th floor and depict scenes from the life of the indios.

But is Witzel likely to introduce new ideas after 35 years at Schering and 17 years on the group's board of managers?

Horst Witzel definitely has some new ideas on the values he could defend in his capacity as board chairman.

Until he retires in 1989 Witzel will try to [illegible] of Schering. [illegible] this encompasses Prussian virtues such as a sense of commitment and enthusiasm for the job as well as modesty and personal responsibility on the part of employees.

These qualities are not easy to preserve in a rapidly expanding company like Schering.

When Witzel joined the firm back in 1950 the supervisory board sat together with the other members of staff in the canteen at lunchtime.

This tradition still exists today.

And, if Witzel has his way, it will never be abandoned for the sake of the more hierarchical way of thinking of many of the young up-and-coming managers.

(Welt am Sonntag, Hamburg, 27 April 1986)

■ AGRICULTURE

Ignaz Kiechle, a man not to be envied

Hannoversche Allgemeine

Agriculture Minister Ignaz Kiechle isn't to be envied. Whatever he does, he seems unable to keep anyone happy.

German farmers are dissatisfied with him because he was unable to negotiate better terms in the Luxembourg farm price review.

European Commission officials in Brussels are annoyed with him for again slowing down the pace of urgently needed Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform.

This time Herr Kiechle didn't veto *the farm price review package as he did in 1985. He allowed himself to be overruled.*

But his stubborn resistance to price cuts of any kind was not ineffective. Despite huge and growing surpluses there are to be no reductions in European Community intervention prices for either milk or butter.

Despite burgeoning grain silos Common Market Agriculture Ministers even agreed to an increase in the price to be paid for best wheat.

German farmers ought to have every *reason for satisfaction* with him. He made some headway on their behalf regardless of the gigantic and unsaleable stockpiles of surplus farm produce.

No-one could seriously have expected him to gain acceptance of all German demands by the 12 Agriculture Ministers, let alone prevent some decline or other in farmers' earnings.

Taxpayers have every reason for satisfaction, as do the small minority of farmers capable of seeing further afield than their own compost heaps.

Herr Kiechle failed in his bid to stall the Community in its first, modest moves out of the dead end CAP had reached as a result of the system of nonsensical subsidies in the form of high price guarantees.

Price guarantees for unlimited quantities were bound to lead to production way beyond market requirements at a price no-one could afford to pay.

This absurd green planned economy banking on mass production is not just expensive; it also threatens to destroy the basis of European agriculture by overfarming, overfertilising and overdosing the environment with chemicals.

Even farmers must have realised this state of affairs could not continue indefinitely. So the decision by the European Commission in Brussels to do something to remedy matters was long overdue.

The farm price proposals Herr Kiechle sought in vain to forestall are part of a twofold strategy by which Brussels hopes to redress the balance of the European agricultural market.

First, farm price policies are to be geared more to market requirements and not just to encouraging surplus production.

Second, direct and deliberate aid is to be paid to farmers who really need subsidies in lieu of lost earnings.

It is a strange state of affairs that the liberal-conservative Bonn Federal government, which likes to see itself as the standard-bearer of the social free-market economy, is dragging its feet on farm price talks aimed at prices geared more to the market and defending the old system of safeguarding farm incomes via price guarantees.

Guaranteed prices are neither in keeping with the market nor social, applying to farmers large and small, rich and poor, in equal measure.

Large farmers are paid large subsidies, small farmers small ones. The rich get richer and the poor poorer.

But who cares about market economy common sense when a general election is round the corner and the farmers' vote is in jeopardy?

In Luxembourg Herr Kiechle was, as so often, at the mercy of the farmers' lobby.

Yet the mixed system proposed by Brussels, consisting of moderate prices aimed at helping to set the market right by stemming the tide of overproduction and of direct aid to small and medium-sized farms, need not be to the disadvantage of German farmers.

The latest round of CAP decisions forced on an unwilling Germany is a first and cautious step in the right direction.

The prices agreed should keep the cost more or less within the financial range envisaged. This display of budget discipline has stopped the holy cow of CAP from accounting for the entire European Community budget.

The policy of moderate, market-orientated farm prices must be continued and accompanied by deliberate structural policy, an effective social policy aimed at easing the burden on farmers and an energetic reduction in surpluses of farm produce stockpiled.

Thomas Gack

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 28 April 1986)

Bonn steps up social security subsidies to small farmers

Subsidies to farmers already include 80 per cent of the pension and nearly 40 per cent of the accident insurance scheme. To offset the effect of the latest European farm price round small farmers are now to be exempted from up to half their social security, including health insurance, contributions.

Ten per cent of German farmers earn over 30 per cent of overall farm incomes, leaving 40 per cent earning an average DM12,000 a year and sharing a mere 16 per cent of what is left.

This sobering statistical fact is a clear indication of what will happen if lower real earnings are evenly shared by all farmers.

So the Bonn government has no choice, if it wants to preserve an independent and varied farming community, but to pay small farmers extra, national subsidies.

An obvious way of easing their financial burden is to reduce their contributions to health, pension and accident insurance.

Farmers in the Federal Republic have since 1972 been compulsorily in-

RHEINISCHE POST

sured by regional agricultural health insurance schemes. So have members of the family who work on the farm.

Insurance provisions are roughly in keeping with those of other health insurance schemes, but instead sickness benefit paid to the insured person off work the farm is paid a benefit to enable it to continue in business.

Contributions are based on the size of the farm and subdivided into 10 categories. They are paid by the farm alone (and not half by the employer and half by the employee).

Farmers' old-age pensions have been based on a special legal arrangement since 1965. Membership of the pension fund is open to all farmers who work at least four to five hectares of land.

Where farms are run jointly by, say, husband and wife, both are compulsorily insured. Since January members of the family who work on the farm have also been compulsorily insured from the age of 25.

Farmers are entitled to old-age pensions from 65 provided contributions have been paid for 15 years. Five years' contributions entitle him to a disability pension.

In both cases the farm must be handed over to someone else and no more than 25 per cent of the acreage farmed retained by the pensioner.

Pensions are also paid to widows, widowers and orphans. The pension scheme, as is usual in Germany, pays for treatment at spas, the aim being to keep insured persons healthy and paying contributions throughout their working lives.

The basic pension is DM535.50 for couples and DM357.20 for single persons, plus three per cent for the 16th and subsequent years of contributions.

If both husband and wife are pensioners, then each is paid at the single rate.

The agricultural pension fund is financed by farmers' contributions and Federal government subsidies.

This year the monthly contribution is DM152 per farmer, with small and medium-sized farmers being waived DM25, DM50 or DM75 of their contribution depending on earnings.

So the maximum earnings-related grant nearly halves pension contributions and this year the government will be paying 80.3 per cent of running the fund.

The Federal government subsidy toward the cost of the pension scheme for wage- and salary-earners in private enterprise is 18 per cent.

Accident insurance is compulsory for farmers, working members of their families, farmhands and apprentices. It includes health care and sickness benefit of various kinds.

Disability pensions are paid if industrial injury is found to have disabled the insured person by at least 20 per cent.

Here too the scheme is funded by farmers' contributions and a government grant. The grant this year will be DM400m, as against roughly DM721m in contributions paid by 1,950,000 insured persons.

An eight-hectare (20-acre) farm will on average be liable to about DM4,000 a year in social security contributions. A farm five times this size will pay less than twice as much (DM7,200).

This is where Bonn now proposes to lend a helping hand, waiving 40-50 per cent of social security contributions for

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■ BUSINESS

Feldmühle Nobel share offer raises a bumper DM2bn

Shares in Feldmühle Nobel AG of Düsseldorf, the former Flick Group, were oversubscribed within hours of the share issue being made available to the public. Deutsche Bank, handling the DM2bn share issue, the largest ever on the German stock market, confirmed that the issue had been considerably oversubscribed. The seven million shares with a face value of DM50 were offered to the public at DM285 each. Considerable interest was shown in the shares before they were put on the exchange. They were quoted on the so-called grey market at DM400 each. The shares are now to be alloted by ballot. The former Flick Group was taken over by Deutsche Bank at the beginning of the year for DM5bn.

The logo of West Germany's newest public company, Feldmühle Nobel AG, is made up of three circles that don't touch each other.

The logo, designed in a hurry, fits the group well; it is made up of three companies, Buderus, Dynamit Nobel and Feldmühle, that have little to do with one another.

The 1985 Flick Group turnover of DM9.66bn was made up of the turnover each of them achieved individually.

Internal turnover is so modest that it is not once mentioned in the commpany report. This is unlikely to be changed in future, although executive board chairman Heribert Blaschke spoke of *"coordinated efforts" to bring the three* closer together.

In fact the three have few points of contact and are involved in quite different markets.

It is astonishing that Friedrich Flick was able to gather these companies together under one umbrella.

Flick's PR people always tried to talk about a major industrial concept, but favourable opportunities showed financial genius Flick which path to take. It was a matter of secondary importance to him whether the companies complemented each other or not.

Flick's advantage was that in the decisive post-war period he had cash.

He did not fight back for long when the Allies condemned him to imprisonment as a war criminal and demanded that he sold his mining interests.

Whilst others tried to get round orders to sell, Flick made money and bought for himself top-class companies with a future.

His most successful financial coup was his *participation in Daimler-Benz.* But more to his taste was the purchase of Dynamit Nobel and Feldmühle.

In these operations he had, for the first time after the war, the chance to show his expertise to the whole world. Whether it came out as he planned or whether good luck played a part, he displayed clever footwork.

It all began in 1952 when Flick bought up 75 per cent of a not particularly important company, one of the left-behinds from IG Farben. The company was Wolff & KGaA of Walsrode in Lower Saxony. It made plastic sheeting.

The shares eked out an existence in old Flick's portfolio, but then they were used for strategic purposes in 1955.

Flick sold them to Feldmühle in exchange for shares with a face value of five million marks in Feldmühle itself.

With only DM37m in capital Flick now had more than a 30 per cent holding in Feldmühle.

Hugo Stinnes jr. was then the major shareholder with more than 20 per cent of the equity. He was in the same boat as Flick and failed to notice that the old wizard had his eyes on his holding.

To increase his participation in *Feldmühle Flick bought up additional* shares on the stock exchanges.

Bremen timber merchant Hermann D. Krages was regarded as one of the most sophisticated exchange brokers in the post-war period. He sold to Flick a share package in what is now Dynamit Nobel AG with a nominal value of DM7.5m.

This meant that Flick owned about 16 per cent of the Dynamit capital, only about half what the other two major shareholders had; Rheinische Stahlwerke in Essen and the Swiss arms company Bührle each held 32 per cent.

He bought a few shares on the stock exchange and tricked the Swiss out of enough shares to get him over the 25 per cent barrier. Suddenly he owned a quarter of the Dynamit equity.

In turn he sold these to Feldmühle in exchange for Feldmühle shares so that his holding in the paper group jumped to 57 per cent.

He then turned his attention to Rheinstahl's 32 per cent holding in Dynamit. Flick's bait was a stake in two steel companies he owned, but Rheinstahl boss Werner Söhngen did not bite *immediately.*

When Flick offered only one share package but added cash a deal was struck.

With hindsight it is now obvious why Söhngen preferred cash. Rheinstahl, then paying high dividends, was not having an easy time. The company was living off its assets so cash was regarded much more favourably than further shareholdings.

Flick had now reached an important half-way post. He controlled Feldmühle and Dynamit Nobel. But he still had partners who stood in the way of his absolute rule — Bührle at Dynamit and Stinnes at Feldmühle. But neither could eventually withstand the pressures applied by Flick.

Stinnes urgently needed money. Bührle could see clearly that he didn't stand much chance of exercising any influence on the company alongside his powerful partner Flick.

Flick himself made no bones about this and said so quite openly.

There were still the private shareholders. But he was able to get the better of them with the aid of a law originating from 1934.

This legislation, valid until the end of 1959, stated that a shareholder with more than 75 per cent of a company's equity could dispossess his fellow shareholders — with an appropriate payment, of course.

Despite loud protests from the private shareholders, particularly Hermann D. Krages, the sale was made. Flick's majority votes approved the move at an annual general meeting held before the end of 1959.

There was a storm of indignation when the private shareholders were dispossessed. The Düsseldorf financial daily *Handelsblatt* disapprovingly wrote: "The name Flick stands for the high-handed extension of personal, economic power."

There was a whole series of court cases, even the Constitutional Court was involved.

The only point achieved by the shareholders was that the compensation was improved from DM770 to DM920 for the Feldmühle shares and from DM735 to DM811.50 for the Dynamit equity. Then Krages came to a special agreement with Flick. He was paid DM80m for his Feldmühle shares with a nominal value of DM3m for a commitment to abandon further litigation.

Krages was hewn from the same wood as old Flick. His anger at being dispossessed was feigned. He was much more interested in money, which he eventually got.

No outsider can say how much money Flick invested in order to be the boss of both companies. But he pressed ahead very thriftily, and only bought Feldmühle, basically, because he exchanged the majority of his Dynamit shares for Feldmühle shares to get control of the paper concern and at the same time get control over Dynamit.

It is easier to say what the companies are worth today. Deutsche Bank, which acquired the Flick Group from the old man's son, Friedrich Karl Flick, quoted DM285 per share. With a basic capital of DM350m .. that adds up to *DM1,995m, including Buderus.*

At least DM1.5bn can be set aside for Dynamit and Feldmühle, for Buderus is certainly the weakest subsidiary of Feldmühle Nobel.

Taking into account that Flick put a further DM435m into Dynamit and Feldmühle that he got from the first sales of his Daimler-Benz shares, then the companies have not increased in value so amazingly.

Stock exchange quotations have trebled since 1959, but that was a bull market anyway.

Flick could have earned better with other investments, but they would not have given him so much pleasure.

The irony is that Feldmühle Nobel has returned to the stock exchange and in future will only have private investors. They may not necessarily be the old investors old Flick dispossessed, nor will there be an autocrat at the head of the company again.

They will be participating in a company that is doing well — the Flicks did not let their subsidiaries get run down.

According to Herbert Zapp of the Deutsche Bank executive board there is a kind of end-of-term atmosphere among the company's employees. They have a sense of liberation at no longer belonging to Flick.

Heinz-Günter Kemmer

(Die Zeit, Hamburg, 25 April 1986)

Bonn steps

Continued from page 7

small farms on a sliding scale with 33 hectares as the cutoff size.

The pension and accident insurance funds are already paid substantial direct subsidies with the result that services provided are out of all proportion to the insured person's contribution.

Bonn is keen not to repeat this mistake with the health insurance scheme.

Subsidies are to be paid straight to the farmer, making them clearly identifiable and not just part of a nameless welfare scheme.

They will cost the taxpayer between DM600m and DM700m a year.

Klaus Heinemann

(Rheinische Post, Düsseldorf, 24 April 1986)

Volkswagen sell Triumph-Adler to Olivetti

Italian computer manufacturers Olivetti have signed a contract to take over the Volkswagen office equipment subsidiary Triumph-Adler. The deal gives Volkswagen a five-per-cent slice of the Olivetti equity. Volkswagen owned 98 per cent of Triumph-Adler.

For years Volkswagen have been plagued with losses made by subsidiary Triumph-Adler.

The giant West German car manufacturer bought into Triumph-Adler several years ago to diversify, to reduce the organisation's dependence on automobile manufacturing.

Soon after the purchase it was obvious that Triumph-Adler was not a market leader or among the most technologically advanced in the sector, a sector in which there had been a most rapid rate of development.

It was obvious that *in Wolfsburg* the management knew a lot about motor manufacturing but little about the office equipment industry.

Altogether Volkswagen has had to pump more than DM1bn into Triumph-Adler.

Volkswagen has now found a partner in Olivetti, who will in all probability take over Triumph-Adler. Olivetti will make some of its equity available to Volkswagen in the deal.

The Volkswagen supervisory board has apparently approved the exchange



of shares, and the Olivetti administrative council has apparently given its consent to the agreement.

How else can it be explained, then, that both parties have announced their intention of applying to the Monopolies Commission in West Berlin for approval?

After a long, trying period VW can at last draw breath. It has been a difficult business finding someone prepared to take on a subsidiary that had become so troublesome.

Olivetti, one of Italy's most prosperous companies, is not likely to make a false move. In taking over Triumph-Adler the Italian company takes over a well-established, extensive network of Triumph-Adler dealers and a successful typewriter manufacturer.

Triumph-Adler's disadvantage in the past was that the company missed out on the new generation of computers with which Olivetti has come to the fore.

VW has recently moved into Seat which has a leading position in the Spanish car industry. Its wide range of models will give Seat-Volkswagen a senior position in the Spanish domestic market.

Disposing of Triumph-Adler will have a positive bearing on the future. These two developments have been concluded in a very short space of time, although only after time-consuming negotiations.

Pulling out of the loss-making and tough office equipment sector by an exchange of shares will strengthen VW's profitability.

Both deals will one day be regarded as strokes of good luck.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 18 April 1986)

■ MOTORING

Mercedes launch new transporter range in slow-growth market

A motorcade of 650 new-look Daimler-Benz transporters left Düsseldorf at the end of April for showrooms in 300 cities and towns all over the Federal Republic of Germany.

The Stuttgart motor manufacturers have launched a new generation of vans and small trucks to replace a range that sold over 600,000 units in 19 years.

This spectacular launch cannot be taken as meaning the new Daimler-Benz range will have an easy time of it.

New registrations of private cars may be on the increase but commercial vehicle manufacturers sound strictly guarded in their optimism.

About five years ago sales figures began to decline rapidly, soon including vans and small trucks. The outlook improved slightly last year but business is still a far cry from what it was in the good old days.

So Daimler-Benz's head of sales planning, Bernd Borkes, sounds an extremely modest note. He doesn't expect *new* registrations to revert to their long-term annual average of roughly 80,000 units until about 1990.

Growth in the years ahead is expected to be two to three per cent. Last year Daimler-Benz sold roughly 70,000 transporters, a sector in which they hold 70 per cent of the German and 36 per cent of the Western European market.

The new range is designed to defend this position. DM160m has been invested in R&D for the new range, which is produced in 1,400 versions by 6,500 workers in Düsseldorf.

Daimler-Benz has invested over DM750m in its Düsseldorf production facility since 1978 even though the market has not always warranted such optimism. Transporter production has been transferred to Düsseldorf from Bremen.

Dealers are expected to continue to have difficulty in selling the transporter range despite what the manufacturers claim are a better load capacity, higher cruising speeds and lower running costs.

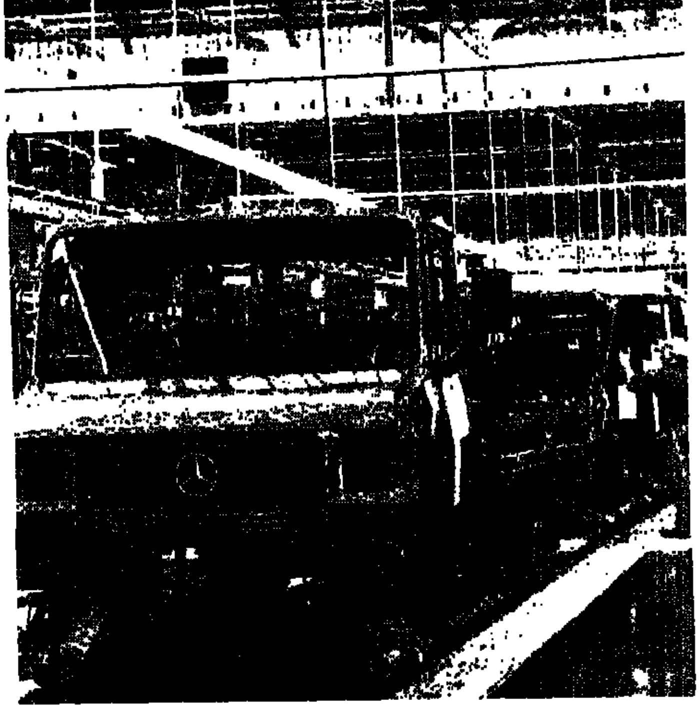
They will need to offer customers special terms they wouldn't dream of offering potential buyers of Mercedes cars if transporters are to continue to contribute DM2bn toward Daimler-Benz group turnover totalling DM52bn.

Few commercial vehicles are sold without a handsome discount these days, and Daimler-Benz have had no choice but to follow in the footsteps of other, mainly foreign manufacturers, who have offered discounts of up to 40 per cent to stay in business.

Yet there has been no talk of surplus capacity so far. The trade prefers to talk in terms of demand being slack.

In Germany the main obstacle to market recovery is the depressed state of the construction industry, which has still to regain momentum.

"Many building contractors who are barely managing to hold their own at present prefer to keep the old jalopy going rather than invest in a new one," as a spokesman for the Motor Manufacturers' Association (VDA) in Frankfurt puts it. With construction contracts sluggish, building dealers are not ordering new vehicles either. If market forces were allowed a free hand several European manufacturers would probably long since have retired from the fray.



Computerised assembly line production of the new Daimler-Benz van range in Düsseldorf (Photo: Mercedes-Benz)

They are kept going by covert government subsidies to which the VDA strictly objects, saying they do nothing but hurt healthy companies.

Subsidies have prevented the market from putting its own house in order.

Profits are virtually impossible to make in medium and heavy goods vehicles, as corroborated by the fact that Japanese firms are steering well clear of the market.

Japanese vans are selling well, but there are no signs of Japanese manufacturers planning to market heavy goods vehicles in Western Europe in the foreseeable future.

In this sector, Herr Borkes expects domestic business to improve over the year as a whole despite lower turnover in January and February. But the outlook for exports is far from promising.

Many developing countries are so chronically short of foreign exchange they can no longer afford major investments, while Opec orders have tailed off as oil prices have declined.

In 1975 German manufacturers exported 67,000 trucks to the Opec countries; last year only 9,600 heavy goods vehicles were shipped to the Middle East.

Many manufacturers misjudged the HGV market, expecting growth to continue unabated. That is why trucks are parked up at the works and not being sent out to customers.

"The truck market," says a VDA spokesman, "is in a process of adjustment."

Many firms seek salvation in mergers. Iveco, backed by Fiat, have taken over Unic in France. MAN trucks in Germany already sport the Iveco logo.

In Scandinavia Volvo and Scania owe their survival to generous support from parent companies, while in Holland DAF owes its survival largely to government orders.

Daimler-Benz, the world's largest manufacturer of commercial vehicles, cannot expect support measures of this kind in the Federal Republic.

So the emphasis is on quality and service, and the combination works. The Stuttgart management expect the British, French and Italian markets to show signs of improvement and business to respond to the enlargement of the European Community.

"In some Common Market countries we still see prospects of better business for our new transporter range," Borkes says. "Great store is set by European Community new member Spain." *Walther Wuttke*

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, Bonn, 26 April 1986)

Car industry's success story 'no coincidence'

German industry can only hope to hold its own against international competition by exporting top quality and high tech, says Daimler-Benz chief executive Werner Breitschwerdt.

Addressing a meeting of employers in Bremen, he illustrated his point with reference to the motor industry.

"Despite initial uncertainty among domestic customers 4.2 million private cars, or more than ever before, were produced by German manufacturers last year.

Production figures for commercial vehicles also showed an increase for the first time in four years, he said.

This year is expected to be another good year for the motor industry. Exports, especially to the dollar area, may have grown tougher but domestic demand has regained impetus due to economic recovery and lower fuel prices.

This encouraging trend was due neither to coincidence nor to the ups and downs of the economic cycle. It was, he said, the result of a future-orientated strategy.

"We would have forfeited our position as the key sector of the German economy in the 1970s," he said, "if we had rested on our laurels for too long and retained 1960s product ranges and production techniques."

Demand had been boosted by means of product innovation, better equipment and the trend toward higher-quality vehicles.

The real value of German cars had increased by 3.5 per cent per annum since the early 1970s, meaning more business for manufacturers and suppliers and more jobs in the motor industry and allied trades.

The motor industry, Professor Breitschwerdt said, was the only industry in the country to have steadily increased its payroll since the early 1970s, reaching an all-time high of 810,000 last year.

Referring to consistently heavy investment by German carmakers for the past five years, he said labour market problems were least acute where investment was heaviest and technological progress made the swiftest headway...

(Die Welt, Bonn, 24 April 1986)

■ ARCHAEOLOGY

Ancient Phoenicia exhibition tours Germany

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

Ancient Phoenicia extended along the east coast of the Mediterranean, possibly from the Amanus Mountains on the the north to Mount Carmel on the south, bounded on the east by the mountains of Libanus and Anti-Libanus (Lebanon).

The extent of Phoenician rule varied at differing periods.

In present-day cultural and political terms Phoenicia was the Middle East, extending in the north to the Syrian coastal region and to the south it included the northern tip of Israel.

The chief towns, built for the most part on the coast, were Acco, Tyre, Sidon, Sarepta (between Tyre and Sidon), Berytus (modern Beirut), Byblos, Tripolis (now Tarabulus), Aradus (modern Ruad), and Haifa in the south.

Ugarit (modern Ras Shamra), situated opposite the most easterly cape of Cyprus, was a flourishing royal city in the third century B.C.

The chain of Phoenician colony cities began on Cyprus, stretching to North Africa, Sicily, Sardinia and Spain.

Not only were the much sought-after purple shells producing purple dye the source of their prosperity; so was the geographical location of the parent country, the link between the great cultures of Egypt and Mesopotamia.

The dig made at Ugarit by French archaeologist Claude Schaeffer over many years has been the main source of our information on the Phoenician civilisation, giving us a picture of relations between the various empires in the second century B.C.

The cultural remains of the second millenium B.C., discovered in part by the Israelites after they began to take land in Palestine in the twelfth century B.C., lie unexcavated under the rubble of Beirut, under the high-rise buildings in the centre of Sidon and under an extensive Shi'ite cemetery in Tyros.

For this reason a small village in central Lebanon has become famnous since German archaeologists excavated there from 1963 to 1981.

They have worked in the fertile Bekaa Valley between the Mountains of Lebanon and Anti-Lebanon. The savage fighting that has taken place there shown on television has made the region well known to viewers.

Because of political events it is something of a miracle that it was possible to dig there at all.

Whilst excavations were in progress the Six Day War took place there in 1967; then the Yom Kippur War in 1973 and the Lebanese Civil War in 1975.

Kamid el-Loz in the south-east of the plain is geographically important as the meeting point of two major routes, one coming from the coastal region by Damascus in the east, the other from Egypt through the Jordanian rift valley to the north, then onwards to Anatolia or into Mesopotamia.

The Bekaa Valley, close to the settlements there in ancient times, was an extensive marshland. It could only be traversed at the foot of the mountains in the west and the east, where Kamid el-Loz was located.

When archaeologists were able to make an exploratory journey to the site of the dig at the beginning of 1983 they saw that it had not lost any of its strategic significance.

The excavation mound had been fortified and close to the excavation area there was a fortification made of sandbags, an act of consideration by the occupying Israelis, entrenched just 300 metres away from the Syrians.

The Lebanese Civil War enabled the Federal Republic to acquire the objects from this excavation for the pre-historians of Saarbrücken University.

Because the Beirut National Museum has been severely damaged and is virtually out of operation and in view of the chaos in the country, the director-general of the Lebanese antiquities department has given permission for some objects to be exported for a limited period.

The objects could not be restored and evaluated properly in the war-torn country, nor properly looked after.

In 1984 it was possible to gather together items for an exhibition in West Berlin. Ultimately the exhibition went on tour and is currently at the Museum of Prehistory in Munich.

Two factors make the exhibition significant.

The excavation at Kamid el-Loz has shown clearly what had long been suspected, that the site is identical with Kumidi, well known from the Egyptian Amarna annals of the time of Amenophis IV.

In the middle of 2000 B.C. Kumidi was a city more or less politically dependent on the Egyptians but culturally inclined towards Phoenicia. This was particularly fortunate for the excavation.

The second reason for the greater importance of Kumidi than similar archaeological excavations is that a palace was destroyed by an earthquake there in the fourteenth century B.C.

Some of the inhabitants and their belongings were buried, out of reach of those who survived.

It is a kind of eastern Pompeii in miniature for this safeguarded many objects of considerable value.

From these finds archaeologists have considerably extended their knowledge about the layout of a royal city of this region in the Late Bronze Age.

There are objects worked in ivory, a Phoenician speciality; vessels for storing cosmetics shaped like ducks, with the handle of the lid decorated with young birds, their necks turned back towards the mother's bill. Hairpins with ducks' heads were also found as well as buttons shaped like grasshoppers and fawns, female figures and gaming

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Prehistoric lakeside village at Unteruhldingen on the shores of Lake Constance (Photo: Ursula Röhc

Prehistoric settlements in Baden-Württemberg

The Bonn-based Scientific Research Association (DFG) has allocated DM1.5m for arts research next year.

Its main archaeological interests, in plans extending until to 1988, are centred on research into settlements in the foothills of the Alps.

Projects included are the oldest known Early Stone Age settlements at Hornstaad-Hörnle on Lake Constance and a Bronze Age settlement on the Federsee in Upper Swabia.

To this sum can be added grants and aid from the Historical Monuments Department and Freiburg University. Both support the Alpine research project.

These funds will be used to employ eight scientists from various disciplines, any number of dig assistants and three draghtsmen for sounding out, excavating, researching and documenting the pre-historic settlements in marshy sites.

A quarter of the four-acre Early and Middle Bronze Age marshland site, known for 60 years and named after Biberach dentist Heinrich Forschner, at Reid Egelsee near Buchau, has been excavated.

Settlements from the 18th to the 15th century B.C. are little known north of the Alps.

Aided by dendrochronology (the system of fixing dates in the past by comparative study of the annual growth rings in ancient trees), it has been possible to date wooden uprights used to define three building phases.

The oldest Bronze Age village was established in 1760 B.C. Three ground plans from the Early Bronze period discovered in South Germany, have been uncovered by archaeologists.

The village was not built on stakes but the buildings, six metres by three metres, were constructed on damp subsoil using a kind of log cabin technique.

The building timber was technically well prepared and the house building well done.

There were no central supporting pillars for the roof beams, which is evidence of sophisticated building methods. The settlement was surrounded by a wooden palisade.

Thirty years later the settlement was re-built. Last summer it was discovered that the village was protected by a double wooden wall for greater security.

The 2.5 metre, strong wooden wall was constructed on a base of stakes deeply embedded in the soil, bound together for reinforcement.

The settlers had filled wooden boxes with clay to improve stability, but nothing remains of the materials with which they filled these boxes.

The whole settlement was protected by a wooden wall that was in its turn protected by a palisade of b[illegible]derwood and firs.

The wooden protective wall at Buchau is of particular importance since it is the only one known from the Early Bronze Period.

The construction indicates that it was built in [illegible] times, making it [illegible] to build fortified settlements in the Swabian Alb.

Archaeologists date the third settlement phase to the turn of the 16th and 15th centuries B.C. Most of the finds made in the settlement originate from this period.

Examination of animal bones found at the Forschner Settlement have also proved to be very interesting. They give quite a new picture of the countryside in the Bronze Age.

The region around the Federsee was no longer covered with primeval forest, but was open. Among the animals that could be hunted there deer were the most common because living conditions

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■ CINEMA

Meagre German entries to Oberhausen festival



Sixty-four of the 220 German entries for the the 32nd Oberhausen short film festival were shortlisted and previewed.

It was a lean harvest and didn't give one much to rave about. The following films were among the more important entries.

Sema Poyraz, a Turkish woman who has lived in Germany since 1961, and Monika Schmid a German, both 36, have with patience and precision researched what it is like to be Turkish in Berlin at Christmas time.

For many it is a *Stille Nacht in fremdem Land* (Silent Night in a Foreign Country).

They found that some examples of neighbourliness between the two communities exist. They came across German confirmation classes which had made contact with Turkish students of the Koran. They found one group of Turks organising a Christmas party for elderly Germans.

On an another occasion they met a Catholic priest who had invited Turks to share a communal St Nicholas' Day celebration.

Such commendable gestures are small steps on the long road to removal of prejudice, a goal which is of practical importance to both communities.

This film justifiably earned its place along with seven others to represent the Federal Republic in the international competition.

The selection committee chose however, to overlook Herbert Linkesch's film *Himmel und Hölle* (Heaven and Earth). It was a highly imaginative short film about a man whose task in life is to mark the lines of a football pitch.

Without warning he flips out and starts drawing spirals on the pitch. Then, lost in thought, he goes on a walkabout across meadows, fields and streets; his careless street marking causing car crashes on the way.

While on his odyssey, he perceives the ambiguous nature of freedom with its contradictory mixture of heavenly and diabolical qualities. Hence the title of the film.

Strangely enough, the jury chose instead to recognise *Le Daupheiп* by Stephan Sachs.

The film suffers from being too much of a deep half-baked experiment. It relies too much on bewitching beatiful pictures and not enough on any comprehensible concept.

In general the festival was teeming with quite arbitrarily sketched experimental films derived from more or less well known cinematic patterns.



A scene from *Bodhvriksha – Tree of Wisdom*, the Indian entry and second prize winner at Oberhausen (Photo: Archiv)

It might be the case that the new generation of directors needs to express itself through such forms to enable some kind of self-discovery to take place.

Yet one left the festival with the general impression that the German short film has become formal and its content unconvincing. This is particularly true of the experimental branch and that of short feature films, which has recently become popular.

Nobody appears to want to burn their fingers with the white-hot topics of unemployment and its consequences; such as corruption, pollution, manipulation of the media, leisure time behaviour and hidden self- and external censorship.

Meanwhile the half-hour or hour-long documentary has proven to be an indispensable source of information.

It has to be admitted however that we do not have the money for many projects. Or is it more a case of the apparent or real indifference of television addicts or jaded contemporaries? These questions certainly need answering.

Many of the older festival visitors no doubt remembered an urbane 60-year-old man blessed with Anglo-Saxon humour, John Grierson.

In 1959/60 he was chairman of the short film festival's international jury.

He remained honorary chairman up till his death in 1972.

He was responsible for the first documentary film of classical status, which created a new type of film. This type of film is still alive and well.

In 1929 he directed *Drifters*, a documentary about the hardships and dangers of English herring fishermen in the North Sea.

It was his idea to show silent films to an accompaniment of colourfully mixed record music.

The music consisted of fragments and sequences by Mendelssohn, Liszt, Wagner, Stravinsky and many others.

In 1984 the well known music specialist Lothar Prox decided to enlist the services of the East German composer Andre Asriel, a man experienced with films, to write a new score for the film.

The fruits of his efforts went on display at this year's short film festival at the City Theatre in Oberhausen.

Once again one got to see the heavily rhythmical masterpiece of men struggling with rough seas.

The film is still mostly to be seen in black and white with some sea sequences coloured in in blue or green.

One could see the catch wriggling and glistening in mile-long nets which trailed behind the boats.

The viewer was able to observe the whole undertaking. The film showed the men sailing off and returning joyfully to port. Then came the auctioning of the catch and the subsequent loading of the fish onto the freight transporters, which rolled up and drove off endlessly.

The new symphonic music for large string orchestra and the four solo instruments (flute, accordion, viola and drums) pay homage to the late romantic tradition.

Now and then one also notices influences from Hindemith out of the 1920s.

However the music makes an effort to avoid the use of too much volume, instead it tries to create dramatic effect by being sensitively sychronised to the scenes.

The varied recordings of the old British sea song "Haul away Joe" were used as a basis, supported by a musical framework of Passacaglia and fugue.

Despite an extremely meagre schedule for rehearsals and the changing of the director due to illness shortly before the première, the City Theatre orchestra still managed a respectable performance.

The young conductor Mark Andreas from Düsseldorf, who is well versed in film music, conducted the score with brilliance and bravado.

Hannes Schmidt
(Kieler Nachrichten, 25 April 1986)

Continued from page 10

boards. Sometimes it is not obvious to what use the objects were put, but comparison with similar finds from other excavations suggest that they were furniture decorations. They have survived but the furniture itself, made from wood or reeds, has disintegrated.

The sections of bronze scale armour are also worth looking at. Obviously it belonged to the ruler. The way the armour [illegible] has been reconstructed.

There is women's golden jewellery, perfectly fashioned, household utensils of ophite or limestone, and a war chariot of clay.

Detailed explanations and colour pictures show the visitor the way through the exhibition.

More information can be obtained from the catalogue, published by Verlag Philipp von Zabern in Mainz. It illustrates and describes not only the exhibits but includes photographs of the excavation, giving some idea of the archaeologists' detective work.

The catalogue also gives an insight into the various adventures that participants on the dig experienced.

Hartmut Binder
(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 11 April 1986)

■ ENVIRONMENT

Bang go hopes of salvaging billions of books

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

The explosion of the US Titan rocket at Vandenberg air base, California, was a further setback for Nasa, but what did it have to do with the restoration of old books?

It could be instrumental in one of the most promising methods of restoring old books being shelved for the time being in the United States.

In February the vacuum chamber of a disused space simulator in which Library of Congress specialists were de-acidifying books blew up. A smaller explosion occurred last December.

When US Army marksmen were sent in to knock out pipes damaged in the earlier explosion the entire chamber blew up.

The explosion was triggered by a zinc compound in which book restorers were particularly interested. They hoped it would make the de-acidification of books much easier.

Trees are well known to react to acid rain. Fewer people realise that books do too. Death sweeping the world's forests as tree diseases assume epidemic proportions seems likely to be followed by disintegration and "death" of books.

The United States is particularly hard hit by this process because its mainly humid climate is unsuitable for books.

One in four of the 83 million books at the Library of Congress in Washington is in a state of decay due to acid damage.

This alarming figure was stated in early April at a conference in Vienna on library stock maintenance held by the International Federation of Library Associations, a Unesco organisation.

A basic grounding in the chemistry of paper is needed to appreciate the position. Paper consists mainly of cellulose, the main constituent of plant-cell walls.

It is generally very stable but acid, with an admixture of water, dissolves it. Paper affected by acid grows brittle and eventually crumbles.

This was a phenomenon known to printers in the days when ink contained metal that oxidised, with the result that the printing gradually rusted away and disappeared, taking the paper with it.

Nowadays atmospheric pollution caused by sulphuric and nitric oxides can be to blame for acid damage.

Harmful emission from industrial smokestacks, central heating and car exhausts is not precipitated solely as acid rain; it also descends in dry form.

Via ventilation it reaches closed rooms and books, where the sulphuric and nitric oxides combine with water (cellulose contains roughly eight per cent water).

The result, sulphuric and nitric acid, is the beginning of the end of the book.

Acid affects books not only via atmospheric pollution, although pollution definitely accelerates the process. But the glue that is added to the cellulose to make the paper more absorbent is even more disastrous. Until the early 19th century animal glue was used. Since Moritz Illig's discovery that resin glue was much cheaper in 1807 animal glue, such as fish glue, has been replaced by resin. The trouble is that resin glue is given an admixture of aluminium sulphate (formerly alum), which is extremely acid.

Cologne book restorer Johannes Sievers processing damaged paper in his workshop (Photo: Irene Meichsner)

High-grade cellulose is more resistant to damage than poorer qualities. But most books nowadays are printed on wood-based cellulose, especially newsprint.

Books and magazines printed on this paper in the 19th century (and their number increased by leaps and bounds from about 1850) are now reaching the end of their lifespan.

What can be done to avert the impending wholesale epidemic? The US rocket explosion merely dramatises an issue restorers have been pondering for some time.

The first point is that paperworks must develop and manufacture a more longlived paper using alkaline glue.

This alternative exists and the resulting paper is said not even to be much more expensive than the conventional variety. But converting machinery and production lines would cost a packet.

But librarians and archives face an insoluble problem when it comes to salvaging old stock. Restorers can only rescue single sheets of paper using present techniques. They often take weeks to stabilise a handful of valuable manuscripts.

Johannes Sievers, who has worked as a restorer at the Cologne diocesan library for 27 years, is one of the best-known and highly-respected men in his trade.

He subjects damaged paper to an entire range of procedures, washing each sheet in demineralised water, then bleaching and disinfecting it with sodium chlorite.

At times he even cuts a page down the middle to insert a sheet of intact, acid-free paper between the two halves.

He has a fascinating array of equipment he uses to remake perfect pages from pages reduced to shreds.

The damaged pages are laid on a fine sieve in a bain-marie and coated in fibre pulp. A suction pump ensures that fibres fill the holes exactly and in a matter of seconds.

Before this process he de-acidifies the paper with calcium carbonate (other restorers use magnesium carbonate to neutralise the acid).

A surplus of "antidote" is retained by the paper to keep further acid damage at bay, but it only works for an estimated 25 years.

Brink of destruction

Sievers is an acknowledged expert and works wonders, but not even he can do anything about entire libraries on the brink of destruction. So the experiments with zinc compounds in the Nasa vacuum chamber were truly sensational.

Zinc carbonate, unlike calcium or magnesium carbonate, occurs as gas. Gas can be used to fumigate both loose leaves and entire bound books in bulk.

So it is the first real prospect of bulk de-acidification. A vacuum chamber the [illegible] Library of Congress planned [illegible] up in Fort Detrick was to have handled 5,000 volumes a day.

But this will remain wishful thinking for the time being. [illegible] is ex-plosive and takes expensive equipment to handle. [illegible] project was keenly [illegible] but plummeted [illegible] after the explosions. [illegible] alternative is to microfilm or microfiche library stock, and experts feel this technique is still the likeliest candidate.

Many original texts seem sure to be lost for good, but books are not just cultural documents. They are also carriers of information and the most important point is to rescue for posterity the information they contain.

Initial suggestions that microfilm [illegible] not last for ever have been found [illegible] less alarming than they seemed at [illegible]. Its survival can now be guaranteed for up to 200 years.

Irene Meichsner

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 25 April [illegible])

Continued from page 10

for them were most favourable. Botanists have confirmed the surprisingly new picture given of the countryside. Clearing the primeval forest was far more advanced in Upper Swabia than it was on Lake Constance.

Pastureland was used for rearing cattle, and spelt (a prehistoric variety of wheat) and millet were cultivated.

Man had considerably changed the landscape by clearing the forest for fields and rearing cattle. This had far-reaching consequences.

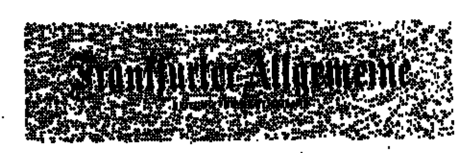
Man not only killed off the forest, but also polluted the ground water. These are problems that are problems still, 3,500 years later.

Dieter Kapff

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 18 April 1986)

■ MEDICINE

Old age and arteries seldom to blame for bad memory



Arteriosclerosis, or hardening of the arteries, is seldom to blame when memories go from bad to worse, doctors were told at a course held in Merano, Italy, by the German and Austrian General Medical Councils.

Bad memories aren't just a sign of old age either. Various complaints can be a contributory factor, as can a number of medicines.

The best way to keep the brain healthy and active is to use it. This advice is particularly important for people in old folk's homes who tend to have decisions taken for them and no longer need to think for themselves.

"My mind really isn't what it used to be," people will say, usually to excuse a lapse of memory.

The ones who own are often older people, but poor memories neither beset only the old nor are they an inevitable part of growing older.

Scientists have long disproved the theory that the mind dulls as a matter of course with age, yet it is still a widely-held belief.

Another widespread belief is that there must be medicines to remedy poor memory and other upsets of the brain.

Many possible causes of failing memory were mentioned in a platform debate at a further education course held in Merano, Italy, by the German and Austrian General Medical Councils.

Cerebral sclerosis, or hardening of the brain arteries, was by no means always to blame, said Siegfried Heyden from Durham, North Carolina.

Even in cases where arteriosclerosis seriously affected the brain the patient's memory could continue to be excellent.

It has been an established scientific fact for the past 25 years that cerebral sclerosis is relatively insignificant as a cause of declining mental powers in old age.

Two other factors were said to be mainly to blame for failing memory: various physical illnesses and lack of mental exercise, as in institutions where old people are no longer required to engage in any activity of their own.

Heart and circulation trouble are the main category of illness that can have a detrimental effect on mental capacity.

Certain forms of cardiac disturbance such as ventricular tachycardia can reduce oxygen supply to the brain by between 40 and 70 per cent, said Berndt Lüderitz, a Bonn specialist in internal medicine.

Once the heart was made to pump blood to the brain more effectively, and regardless why it failed to do so in the first place, the brain often began to function more efficiently.

If a cardiac insuffiency was treated with the right dosage of digitalis, for instance, a bad memory could be remedied too.

Another category of physical complaints that can be to blame for mental decline is caused by medication, especially when prescribed unnecessarily or wrongly taken. Digitalis wrongly administered is a case in point.

Dr Heyden mentioned laxatives and diuretics which, if taken to excess, could cause a dangerous sodium loss.

Cortisone treatment was also mentioned. Heavy dosage of cortisone can upset the short-term memory and even cause psychoses.

A further fact that is nowhere near as widely known as it ought to be is that confusion in old age is often due to shortage of water.

The body needs a daily supply of two litres of water, yet old people often don't feel thirsty and fail to achieve this essential liquid intake.

The brain often functions better when a patient stops taking a sleeping pill or tranquilliser. Older patients are often overdosed with both by doctors who fail to realise that their bodies are slower to process them.

Gerhart Hitzenberger, a Viennese pharmacologist, said tranquillisers in the benzodiazepin group that normally had a half-life of 20 hours could have a half-life of up to 90 hours with elderly patients.

A daily pill taken in these circumstances would have such a massive cumulative effect that normal functioning of the brain was ruled out.

Diabetes, liver, kidney or glandular trouble can also affect the brain and memory if poorly treated, Dr Heyden said. Blood diseases could also affect the memory.

In schoolchildren failing memory was often the first sign of anaemia due to iron deficiency, said Georg Kanzow from Hamburg. Vitamin B 1 deficiency in alcoholics often had the same effect.

A wide range of medicines that were claimed to improve brain functioning in general and the memory in particular were on the market, Hitzenberger said. Yet few if any were listed in pharmacological manuals.

Aggressive advertising and pressure exerted by patients led, he felt, to substantial turnover in both the Federal Republic of Germany and Austria, whereas they were viewed much more sceptically in other countries.

An extremely critical view must be taken of studies that claimed to prove these drugs tended to boost brain activity, he warned.

Nine studies of cholin and lecithin were found to involve only seven patients on average and to have lasted only eight weeks. In only four cases were findings checked, with double blind tests in only three cases.

These numbers were so woefully inadequate that treatment could not even be said to have done patients any good when some, perhaps coincidentally, showed certain signs of improvement.

Despite various reports of practical success glutamin acid treatment had yet to be definitely shown to be effective in other than deficiency cases.

Yet some doctors reported success with geriatric medicines and drugs that activated the brain. These drugs needed to be strictly checked to lend scientific support to such claims.

Only then can a clear distinction be drawn between the effect of the drug and the influence of other factors, such as motivation by the doctor in charge of the case.

In the platform debate the greatest importance was attached to memory training as a means of keeping the mind active in old age.

Hopes placed in a medicine prescribed are clearly also of great importance. How else is one to account for placebos so often proving effective?

A number of substances often prescribed to treat brain upsets and temporarily licensed in accordance with the transitional provisions of the Patent Drugs Act have been re-examined by a panel of experts commissioned by the Federal Health Office.

The findings, briefly previewed in an academic journal at the end of 1984, have since been published in detail.

Cinnarizin was found to have no therapeutically useful effect in connection with cerebral upsets in old age, and the same went for Procain.

The panel saw no scientific justification in treating brain circulation trouble with Cinnarizin or declining mental proficiency with Procain.

They were less damning in their verdicts on the other three substances: Piracetan, Co-Dergocrinmelisat and Pyritinol.

These three were found to be on average 15- to 20-per-cent more effective than placebos in treating elderly patients with organic cerebral syndromes.

But the experts advised checking first whether the symptoms were due to physical illness before prescribing any of the three drugs.

This is in keeping with the advice given in the Merano platform debate by Hans Hamm, a Hamburg general practitioner.

The safest way to treat bad memory was, he said, conscientious treatment of the fundamental physical complaint accompanied by constant mental training.

Rosemarie Stein

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 16 April 1986)

Herbal extract may improve impaired hearing

Ginkgo biloba, the Japanese maiden-hair tree, has proved in clinical trials to improve metabolism and the performance of damaged hearing nerves.

Experiments were carried out in Würzburg to show how effective the vegetable extract is in helping the hard of hearing.

Findings have been published in the medical journal *Ärztliche Praxis*.

After a nine-week course of treatment 35 out of 59 patients were found to have perceptibly or substantially improved senses of hearing.

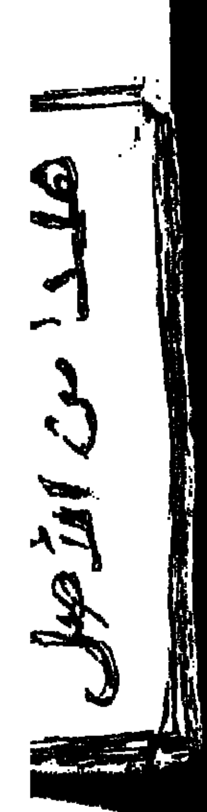
But only patients with poor hearing, and not the stone deaf, took part in the trials.

One in four patients suffering from moderate to serious loss of hearing regained his hearing in full. One in three showed most encouraging signs of improvement.

In most cases tinnitus, or buzzing in the ears, was eliminated too.

The findings show that medication should certainly be given a trial before prescribing a hearing aid.

(Welt am Sonntag, Hamburg, 20 April 1986)



■ MODERN LIVING

Fair sex take the keep-fit craze very seriously

The bodybuilding and fitness fad is a sign of a greater awareness of the importance of health and physical fitness. Almost half the fitness fanatics attending bodybuilding and fitness clubs are women. They show much more stamina than the men and take their exercises very seriously.

More than half a million women attend the 4,200 bodybuilding and fitness clubs in this country, working out on the equipment to keep in good shape.

There were a couple of well-built young women in tight T-shirts demonstrating at the Fitness and Bodybuilding Fair in Cologne that women are as good as men at handling the gleaming steel apparatus.

But there were very few women visitors at the fair and only one or two picked up a dumb-bell or tried out a home trainer.

Men were in the majority: muscle machines, press-up benches and the like were originally manufactured for them.

Under the jackets of some male visitors there were clear outlines of well-developed muscles but bodybuilding is no longer associated with he-men, as the fair organisers well understood.

Volker Ebner, president of the West German association of fitness centres, says the sharp increase in interest in bodybuilding can be attributed to a keener awareness of the need for health and physical fitness.

The fitness clubs collect more than a billion marks from their 1.2 million members annually. If items such as clothing sales, literature, sports food and the like are taken into consideration the industry has a total turnover of DM1.6bn.

The bodybuilding fad will have a longer life than the short-lived jogging or aerobics crazes, experts say.

Insiders no longer talk of bodybuilding, in fact, which brings to mind the hideous deformities of muscle-bound men. The in word now is bodystyling.

Women and girls, set on toning up their muscles and getting a good figure, work out on and in the apparatus.

Men in the main are interested in increasing their muscle power. But women concentrate primarily on problem zones — hips, thighs and bottoms. They want to replace fat with muscle.

A well-maintained body has come to be regarded as a feature of beauty. The equation is simple: fit equals beautiful.

Sports instructor Sabine Helm, who works in a Cologne fitness club for women, says that women work out with much more determination than men do.

The torture machines to which they willingly submit themselves are so designed that only one muscle or group of muscles responds at a time.

She says normal gymnastics could never achieve the same concentration.

Many women go to the clubs after their first child. Under the abdominal wall that has become slack, muscles are exercised whose very existence only a few knew about. After the first excruciating exercises they are painfully aware they are there.

For ages doctors have urged people to keep thei bodies in trim. This has sunk home among women and they are spurred on by the apparatus itself.

They watch their weight as the flab disappears, and are fascinated by the gleaming coolness of the equipment on which they sweat and work out.

Psychologists are agreed that all this sweating activity has something more to it than the beauty ideal.

They assume that bodies toned up on the muscle machines give women the notion that the era of the weaker sex has ended.

Maria Grohme

(Die Welt, Bonn, 23 April 1986)



Gabi Sievers, the 1985 NABBA Miss World, and Mr World Ronald Matz at the Cologne fitness and bodybuilding fair (Photo: [illegible])

Psychopathology of the urge to spring-clean

Cologne psychologist Elfi Porz-Selke asked herself: "Why do people do house-cleaning?" This started her off on a psychological study of house-cleaning within the framework of Cologne University's Psychology of Everyday Life project.

The question is timely now millions of Germans are spring-cleaning. The amazing revelation of the study is that people don't spring-clean to get rid of dust and dirt; they in fact enjoy washing the floor and dusting the shelves, even those who moan about it.

It appears that after "enjoying wallowing in filth" there is pleasure "in dealing with a problem" and "the reassuring feeling that the jobs that have to be done are being done."

She says many housewives, and men too, always leave a little dirt about the place for something to do later.

House-cleaning is a kind of lightning conductor. She says: "It relieves a sense of unease."

Even in households that can afford to employ a charlady the woman of the house insists on giving everything the final lick and polish.

Even working women who might seem to have a good excuse for keeping housework down to a minimum give the

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Nine-pin fans pay for bowling courses at Dortmund hotel

Six million West Germans are nine-pin bowling enthusiasts and between 400 and 500 bowlers a year pay DM298 for a weekend training course at a Dortmund hotel.

The nine-pin bowling school, founded ten years ago, is the only one of its kind in the country.

The school attracts in the main married couples who converge on the hotel for the training course from all over Germany.

Ulrike Thiemann, who is 39 and from Münster, has been the main instructor for the past two years. Her assistant is Bärbel Beermann.

For their fees participants in the course get meals and accommodation for two nights, a welcoming drink and a bottle of bubbly for the winners.

Over the weekend they are taught the secrets of how to win at nine-pin bowling.

None of those who take part are new to the game. Most are members of a private bowling club.

Some of the course participants have been sent to learn by their fellow bowling club members.

A 42-year-old Bundeswehr official said: "I was always the worst. Then the others said that I had to learn to do better and sentenced me to the bowl course."

Both instructors are professionals. They have won golds at international and European nine-pin bowling contests. They know all the tricks.

Ulrike Thiemann said: "You can learn how to be certain of success in nine-pin bowling. It all depends on the approach run-in."

The bowler must take three paces before the bowl is released from the hand.

When the two professionals bowl it all seems so easy, but for the students in the course there are problems in knocking down the pins.

Many make an extra, impeding step before they let the bowl go, others take long strides as if they were trying to break the world long-jump record.

Others run at the alley as if they were fleeing from a pack of hounds.

The first, and most important lesson the participants have to learn is power-saving coordination in the run-up pace and the swing of the arm.

It is amazing how difficult it is to bowl so that the middle finger controls the ball, that the bowl travels down the centre of the alley.

Cramped bowling results in grotesque contortions.

When Ulrike Thiemann kneels at the side of the alley and points to the place where the bowl should hit the boards she puts herself in some danger of being hit by a bowl incorrectly aimed.

The alley is five planks wide, but frequently the bowl ends up in the side, the return channel.

This happened to a man from Westphalia, who did not have any trouble with the run-in. He had an injured knee so he could not do an extravagant hop, skip and a jump before he released the bowl.

During the ten hours of instruction enthusiasts get aches and pains in their muscles but they begin to improve. They learn to control their aim for the various pins.

There is considerable jubilation when the bowlers manage to knock down the vital side pins.

At the end of the course participants are given a certificate and the ones who were dunces at the game can return to their clubs with a few tricks up their sleeve to give them victory in the future.

dpa

(Bremer Nachrichten, 23 April 1986)

Bowling fans from all over Germany have attended weekend courses at this Dortmund hotel for the past 10 years (Photo: dpa)

■ MIGRANT WORKERS

Gap between Germans and Turks widening, says Turkish political scientist

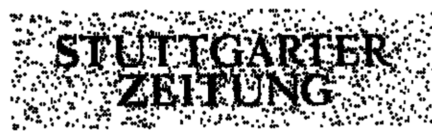
A Turkish political scientist, Professor Abadan-Unat of Ankara University, lectured in Stuttgart on a visit to Germany to help promote understanding and dialogue between Germans and Turks.

From 1978 she was vice-president of the Council of Europe's sexual equality committee.

At the last of a long series of meetings she lectured and discussed at Hohenheim diocesan academy on how Turks view West Germany.

She has come to the saddening conclusion that the gap between the two communities is widening all the time.

During the two-hour discussion it became clear how little is known about the problems of Turks who live in Germany or the land they come from.



The usual mindless anti-foreigner feeling which manifested itself in slogans and open violence has long since been joined by a fear of coming into contact with Turks.

It is a feeling that has become so widespread that hardly any willingness exists to contemplate whatever problems the 1.5 million Turks may have.

The two communities are still ignorant of each other and what they lack in knowledge about each other they make up for in prejudice.

Dr Abadan-Unat said it is now more important than ever to avoid mere coexistence and to make an effort to learn about each other.

This was because, she said, "German hopes of repatriating all the Turks will not be fulfilled."

On the contrary, she added, "despite an increasingly restrictive immigration policy more than one million people are on the waiting list hoping to obtain work in West Germany."

Turkish emigration has not only brought about changes in German society but changes in Turkish society too.

The role of women in Turkish society is an obvious example. Many men who work in West Germany but whose wives or families have been left behind in Turkey have had to hand over responsibilities to women which had been the sole preserve of men.

Today women buy real estate, lease land and run businesses. Emigration, said Dr Abadan, "has led to a liberalisation of Turkish society and has given it a new face."

People who have come back, she added, "belonged in West Germany to the bottom rung of the social ladder but climb quickly up the ladder in Turkey and contribute to the formation of a new middle class."

Yet many who have returned find that during their absence they have been alienated from their native country. But a Turkish society trying to establish democracy and develop industrially does not have much time for such unimportant problems.

Dr Abadan-Unat posed questions about these problems at the meeting at the auditorium. People reacted by saying: "You ask what does Turkey do with the people who return? We ask what do the Germans do with those who stay here?"

All questions concerning the integration of returning Turks were overshadowed by a deep-rooted disappointment at the growing anti-foreigner mentality.

The fact that many Turks living in West Germany feel shunned and misunderstood has led many to defensively cut themselves off and retreat into a ghetto outlook.

The "unpopular minority" tries to hold onto its identity by hanging on to rigid traditional patterns of behaviour.

It is typical to find in West Germany many Turks who, in comparison with their fellow-countrymen back home, hold extremely orthodox views on many issues, such as women, religion, education or children.

This refuge behind traditional values makes it easy for Germans to stigmatise them as integration-shy outsiders. Both sides take a rigid stance.

According to Dr Abadan-Unat, instead of the two communities coming closer together they achieve the opposite.

It does not look like getting any better. Information available about Turks is minimal.

Although Turks have been living in West Germany for 25 years there is not a single German university with a chair of modern Turkish language or social studies. What is available consists of books full of prejudice and false information.

The media have also been negligent. No newspaper, radio or television station has permanent journalists in Turkey.

Admittedly there are many books about teaching methods for foreign children. But there are none which supply information about the land the children come from.

Dr Abadan-Unat ended on a note of resignation: "If we cannot succeed in closing the gaps of information on both sides, the Turks will continue to remain aliens in an isolated hermetic society within the German one, and remain a source of further conflict."

Rainer Laubig

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 14 April 1986)

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home a thorough once-over every week. Where men and women do the house-cleaning there is very little difference in their respective approaches to household chores.

She merely claims that "more men than women let off steam and rage away in the home when they do the cleaning."

Elfi Porz-Selke lists four "house-cleaning" types, although those who were included in the survey did not remain true to type all the time.

She said that people changed in their attitude to cleaning depending upon their mood.

The four types are:

- The untidy ones only get down to cleaning when the mess gets intolerable. Then the home becomes like a battle field and they do everything at one and the same time.

Consequently they never clear up properly. There is just as much chaos when they have finished as when they began. Basically these people do not want a neat and orderly home.

- The second type is the great moaner. The orgy of cleaning is like a military attack. When the rage is over and the tornado calms down, "it doesn't really matter whether the home is clean or not."
- The third type is a mixture between order and chaos. This type is filled with hectic activity and rage, but fundamentally only gets rid of the dust and dirt that can be seen.
- The most efficient house cleaner is the one who follows a system and regularly cleans the house according to a *plan — it doesn't* matter if there is dust and dirt *in the home* [illegible]

This type hunts down the last speck of dirt so that the home looks almost unlived-in.

She discovered that all types of house cleaners have problems to a greater or lesser degree with other members of the family. They do the house-cleaning to disturb them.

Or what is worse they have other ideas about house-cleaning. There is often a lot of argument as to whether cleaning should be done thoroughly or just on the surface.

Frau Porz-Selke, who is a mother, housewife and house-cleaner herself, says: "The survey has shown me what lies behind my urge to clean the house. So now I do much less of it."

Horst Zimmermann

(Westdeutsche Allgemeine, Essen, 22 April 1986)

Enforce Aliens' Act uniformly *Länder* are told

Liselotte Funcke (FDP), the Federal goverment commissioner for immigration aliens' affairs, has called on the *Länder* to standardise the regulations governing immigration law.

The law's lack of uniformity bewilders foreigners and their governments alike.

Yet nobody expects a government initiative to introduce amendents to the Aliens' Act in this legislative period.

With a documentation on immigration law Frau Funcke informed journalists in Bonn that she intended to push for more uniformity of regulations in the different *Länder*.

The Aliens' Act dates back to 1965 and is not tailor-made to the special situation of foreign workers and their families.

Apart from that, the Act gives the *Länder* too much room to do what they want.

[illegible] different *Länder* have for example very different regulations when it comes to handling people wanting to join their families already living in Germany.

Such regulations are applied with particular zeal in Baden-Württemberg and Bavaria to immigrants from countries that are not members of the European Community.

Most *Länder* allow second-generation immigrants to bring their wives in, as long as they have lived in West Germany for eight continuous years, are at least 18 years old and have been married for at least a year.

Baden-Württemberg and Bavaria apply the law more strictly. They demand that the marriage be three years old before the spouse can immigrate.

The following example shows the difficulties this can cause for foreigners. A young Turk who has lived in Stuttgart for 16 years got married while visiting Turkey. A year later his wife was expecting a child and wanted to give birth in Stuttgart.

The Stuttgart immigration authorities refused the woman a residence permit because the marriage was not yet three years old.

If the man had lived in Wiesbaden or Hanover, said Frau Funcke, "it would have been possible for the woman to join her husband after a marriage of one year's duration."

The different regional age limits on the immigration of young people can also lead to problems. Bremen and Hesse let young people from non-Common Market countries join their parents up till the age of eighteen. The other regions have an age limit of sixteen years.

The following example illustrates the difficulties a difference of two years in the regulations can make.

A Yugoslavian family which has been living since the 1960s in Hamburg decided to send their 14 year-old daughter back to Yugoslavia to look after her sick grandmother.

When the woman died, the daughter was 17 and wanted to rejoin her parents in Germany. The Hamburg authorities refused her a residence permit because Hamburg sets the limit at 16 years of age.

It was tough luck for the family that they lived in Hamburg and not in Bremen or Hesse.

Another problem area is when social security is claimed. If immigrants apply for supplementary benefit they run the risk of being deported.

The laws in the different *Länder* for dealing with this possibility are different and Frau Funcke feels this can lead to injustice.

She gave the example of a Turkish couple who worked in a motor vehicle works in Düsseldorf until it went bankrupt.

The couple first of all received earnings-related benefit, then unemployment benefit and finally supplementary benefit.

The immigration authorities tried to deport them because the claiming of supplementary benefit in North Rhine-Westphalia is considered sufficient to limit (i.e. terminate) a previously unlimited residence permit.

Friends of the couple urged them to move to Hamburg because the city does not apply such a regulation.

However the couple could not come to terms with the new environment and consequently returned to Düsseldorf. The authorities are now threatening the couple with repatriation.

According to Frau Funcke, the above mentioned cases are just a few examples of the problems with which immigrants come to her.

Gerda Strack

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 16 April 1986)